

Just One More Page!

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature Committee for the 2016 Convention
from titles published between September 2014-December 2015

Interest Level K-3

Little Robot by Ben Hatke (First Second, 2015).

When a little girl finds an adorable robot in the woods, she presses a button and accidentally activates him for the first time. Now, she finally has a friend. But the big, bad robots are coming to collect the little guy for nefarious purposes, and it's all up to a five-year-old armed only with a wrench and a fierce loyalty to her mechanical friend to save the day!

Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny by Jon Himmelman (Henry Holt, 2014).

Although she can throw farther, kick higher, and hit harder than anyone else at school, Isabel, aka Bunjitsu Bunny, never hurts another creature, unless she has to.

****The Princess in Black*** by Shannon Hale & Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Candlewick Press, 2015).
Who says princesses don't wear black? When trouble raises its blue monster head, Princess Magnolia ditches her flouncy dresses and becomes the Princess in Black!

The Story of Diva and Flea by Mo Willems & Tony DiTerlizzi (Disney-Hyperion, 2015).

In the bustling city of Paris, a small yet brave dog, Diva, and an adventurous cat named Flea become two unlikely friends.

Written and Drawn by Henrietta by Liniers (Toon Books, 2015).

When Henrietta's mother gives her a box of colored pencils, she sets out to draw a terrifying and fantastic adventure.

Interest Level 3-6

A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans by Laurence Yep & Joanne Ryder (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Crusty dragon Miss Drake's new pet human, precocious ten-year-old Winnie, not only thinks Miss Drake is her pet, she accidentally brings to life her "sketchlings" of mysterious and fantastic creatures hidden in San Francisco, causing mayhem among its residents.

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord (Scholastic Press, 2015).

When her blind dog slips his collar, twelve-year old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather--but as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, Lily and Salma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life.

* indicates committee favorite

+ indicates mature content

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All the Answers by Kate Messner (Bloomsbury, 2015).

Twelve-year-old Ava finds an old pencil in her family's junk drawer and discovers, during a math test, that it will answer factual questions, so she and her best friend Sophie have a great time--and Ava grows in self-confidence--until the pencil reveals a truth about her family that Ava would rather not know.

Audrey (Cow) by Dan Bar-el (Tundra Books, 2014).

Longing for a life filled with poetry and the green pastures beyond the farm where she is destined for the slaughterhouse, Audrey the cow enlists the help of human and animal friends to stage a daring escape.

****Circus Mirandus*** by Cassie Beasley (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015).

When he realizes that his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus--and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life.

****Crenshaw*** by Katherine Applegate (Feiwel & Friends, 2015).

A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

Diary of a Mad Brownie by Bruce Coville (Random House, 2015).

Angus Cairns is a brownie, a magical creature with a fastidious nature. Alex Carhart is the messiest eleven-year-old in the United States of America. Together, this unlikely pair embarks on an unforgettable adventure.

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt (Random House, 2015).

In 1970 Queens, New York, Julian Twerski, now in seventh grade, struggles to write an essay as punishment for an act he did not commit, worries about Beverly, the girl he likes, prepares for his bar mitzvah, and tries to cope with the serious illness of one of his closest friends, Quentin.

Firefly Hollow by Alison McGhee (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Because their dreams of daring adventures go against the cautious teachings of their nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own, find a home with kindly Vole, and together help a grieving "miniature giant" named Peter.

George by Alex Gino (Scholastic Press, 2015).

Be who you are. When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, really wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia (Amistad, 2015).

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible.

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Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky (Disney-Hyperion, 2014).

Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body. The weight of this secret is crushing, but sharing it would mean facing ridicule, scorn, rejection, or worse. Despite the risks, Grayson's true self itches to break free. Will new strength from an unexpected friendship and a caring teacher's wisdom be enough to help Grayson step into the spotlight she was born to inhabit?

HiLo The Boy Who Crashed to Earth by Judd Winick (Random House, 2015).

D.J. and his friend Gina are totally normal kids. But that was before a mysterious boy came crashing down from the sky! Hilo doesn't know where he came from, or what he's doing on Earth. (Or why going to school in only your underwear is a bad idea!) . . . But what if Hilo wasn't the only thing to fall to our planet? Can the trio unlock the secrets of his past? Can Hilo survive a day at school? And are D.J. and Gina ready to save the world?

Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff (Philomel Books, 2015).

As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.

Nest by Esther Ehrlich (Wendy Lamb Books, 2014).

On Cape Cod in 1972, eleven-year-old Naomi, known as Chirp for her love of birds, gets help from neighbor Joey as she struggles to cope with her mother's multiple sclerosis and its effect on her father and sister.

Nuts to You by Lynne Rae Perkins (Greenwillow Books, 2014).

After surviving being carried off by a hawk, a young squirrel resolves to find his way home, as his best friends begin their search for him.

Old Wolf by Avi (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

A wolf and bird must fight the starving time and find food, while a human boy learns to hunt.

Percy Jackson's Greek Heroes by Rick Riordan (Disney-Hyperion, 2015).

Who cut off Medusa's head? Who was raised by a she-bear? Who tamed Pegasus? It takes a demigod to know, and Percy Jackson can fill you in on the all the daring deeds of Perseus, Atalanta, Bellerophon, and the rest of the major Greek heroes. Told in the funny, irreverent style readers have come to expect from Percy, and enhanced with vibrant artwork by Caldecott Honoree John Rocco, this story collection will become the new must-have classic for Rick Riordan's legions of devoted fans--and for anyone who needs a hero.

Piper Green and the Fairy Tree by Ellen Potter (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).

Piper's older brother leaves Peek-A-Book Island and Piper refuses to take off his old earmuffs, no matter what! Things are going from bad to worse... until she discovers The Fairy Tree.

Ranger in Time: Rescue on the Oregon Trail by Kate Messner (Scholastic Press, 2015).

Ranger in Time: Danger in Ancient Rome by Kate Messner (Scholastic Press, 2015).

Ranger, a golden retriever, could have been a great search-and-rescue-dog except for the squirrels--but one day he unearths a mysterious box and finds himself transported back to the year 1850 where his faithful service is really needed by a family traveling west along the Oregon Trail. In book two, the mysterious box that Ranger the golden retriever found in the garden transports him back to first century Rome, where he must rescue Marcus, a young servant boy, and Quintus, a volunteer gladiator, from the brutal world of the Colosseum.

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****Ruby on the Outside*** by Nora Raleigh Baskin (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes has a real best friend for the first time ever, but agonizes over whether or not to tell her a secret she has never shared with anyone--that her mother has been in prison since Ruby was five--and over whether to express her anger to her mother.

Space Case by Stuart Gibbs (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Dashiell Gibson, who lives on Moon Base Alpha, has to solve a murder of one of the moon's most prominent doctors.

Sunny Side Up by Jennifer and Matthew Holm (Graphix, 2015).

Sunny Lewin has been packed off to Florida to live with her grandfather for the summer. At first she thought Florida might be fun -- it is the home of Disney World, after all. But the place where Gramps lives is no amusement park. It's full of . . . old people. Really old people.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste (Algonquin Young Readers, 2015).

Eleven-year-old Corinne must call on her courage and an ancient magic to stop an evil spirit and save her island home.

The Penderwicks in Spring by Jeanne Birdsall (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).

As spring arrives on Gardam Street, there are surprises in store for each Penderwick, from neighbor Nick Geiger's expected return from the war to Batty's new dog-walking business, but her plans to use her profits to surprise her family on her eleventh birthday go astray.

****The Terrible Two*** by Mac Barnett & Jory John (Amulet Books, 2015).

Friends and pranking partners Miles and Niles face a tough challenge when their favorite goat and nemesis, Principal Barkin, is replaced by his stern, no-nonsense father, Former Principal Barkin, who turns the school into boot camp.

****The Thing About Jellyfish*** by Ali Benjamin (Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2015).

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.

The Truth about Twinkie Pie by Kat Yeh (Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2015).

When twelve-year-old GiGi and her big sister DiDi move to Long Island from South Carolina for GiGi to attend a fancy new private school, GiGi has a new recipe for success and makes new friends, but then discovers a family secret that turns her life upside-down

The Underground Abductor by Nathan Hale (Amulet Books, 2015).

Relates, in graphic novel format, the story of Araminta Ross, who was born a slave in Delaware but eventually escaped north to freedom. Changing her name to Harriet Tubman, she became an "abductor" on the Underground Railroad, risking her life to help other slaves reach freedom.

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***The War that Saved My Life** by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure of Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

The Way Home Looks Now by Wendy Wan-Long Shang (Scholastic Press, 2015).

Twelve-year-old Peter Lee and his family are baseball lovers, who bond over backlot games and talk of the Pittsburgh Pirates. But when tragedy strikes, the family flies apart and baseball no longer seems to matter. Is that true? Peter wonders if just maybe the game they love can pull them together and bring them back, safe at home.

The Wild Ones by C. Alexander London (Philomel Books, 2015).

After his parents are killed, Kit, a young raccoon, sets off for the city with a stone that may be the key to finding the Bone of Contention, a legendary object that is proof of a deal giving the wild animals the rights to Ankle Snap Alley, which the dogs and cats--known as the flealess--want back and are willing to kill for.

The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Feo's life is extraordinary. Her mother trains domesticated wolves to be able to fend for themselves in the snowy wilderness of Russia, and Feo is following in her footsteps to become a wolf wilder. She loves taking care of the wolves, especially the three who stay at the house because they refuse to leave Feo, even though they've already been wilded. But not everyone is enamored with the wolves, or with the fact that Feo and her mother are turning them wild. And when her mother is taken captive, Feo must travel through the cold, harsh woods to save her—and learn from her wolves how to survive.

Trash Talk: Moving Toward a Zero-Waste World by Michelle Mulder (Orca Book Publishers, 2015).

Humans have always generated garbage. Our landfills are overflowing, but with some creative thinking, stuff we once threw away can become a collection of valuable resources just waiting to be harvested. Trash Talk digs deep into the history of garbage, from Minoan trash pits to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and uncovers some of the many innovative ways people all over the world are dealing with waste.

***Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower** by Greg Pizzoli (Viking, 2015).

Looks at the life of con artist Victor Lustig best known as the man who sold the Eiffel Tower.

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey (National Geographic, 2015).

Jane Goodall, one of the most recognized scientists in the Western world, became internationally famous because of her ability to observe and connect with another species. A girl of humble beginnings and training, she made scientific breakthroughs thought impossible by more experienced field observers when she was only in her twenties. Then these animals shaped Jane's life. She began tirelessly fighting to protect the environment so that chimpanzees and other animals will continue have a place and a future on our planet.

Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer by Kelly Jones (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).

Through a series of letters, Sophie Brown, age twelve, tells of her family's move to her Great Uncle Jim's farm, where she begins taking care of some unusual chickens with help from neighbors and friends.

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Wish Girl by Nikki Loftin (Razorbill, 2014).

Twelve-year-old Peter has never felt at home with his noisy family, but begins to find the strength to live and to be himself when he discovers a special valley in the Texas Hill Country and meets Annie, a girl dying of cancer who knows and accepts him from the start.

Interest Level 5-8

Animalium by Jenny Broom (Big Picture Press, 2014).

Welcome to the Museum is a series of books set on the "walls" of the printed page, showcasing the world's finest collections of objects — from natural history to art. Open 365 days a year and unrestricted by the constraints of physical space, each title in this series is organized into galleries that display more than 200 full-color specimens accompanied by lively, informative text.

Dear Hank Williams by Kimberly Willis Holt (Henry Holt, 2015).

It's 1948 in Rippling Creek, Louisiana, and Tate P. Ellerbee's new teacher has just given her class an assignment--learning the art of letter-writing. Luckily, Tate has the perfect pen pal in mind: Hank Williams, a country music singer whose star has just begun to rise. Tate and her great-aunt and -uncle listen to him on the radio every Saturday night, and Tate just knows that she and Hank are kindred spirits.

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic Press, 2015).

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

****Fish in a Tree*** by Lynda Mullaly Hunt (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015).

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her--and to everyone--than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead (Wendy Lamb Books, 2015).

Bridge is an accident survivor who's wondering why she's still alive. Emily has new curves and an almost-boyfriend who wants a certain kind of picture. Tabitha sees through everybody's games--or so she tells the world. The three girls are best friends with one rule: No fighting. Can it get them through seventh grade?

Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure by Nadja Spiegelman (Toon Books, 2015).

After getting separated from his teacher, his classmates, and his trip partner during an outing to the Empire State Building, Pablo, the new kid in school, learns to navigate the New York City subway system as well as his own feelings towards making new friends and living in a big city.

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Lumberjanes: Beware the Kitten Holy by Noelle Stevenson (BOOM!, 2015).

At Miss Quinzella Thiskwin Penniquil Thistle Crumpet's Camp for Hardcore Lady-types, things are not what they seem. Three-eyed foxes, secret caves, anagrams. Luckily, Jo, April, Mal, Molly, and Ripley are five bad, butt-kicking best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not going to let a magical quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way! The mystery keeps getting bigger, and it all begins here.

Paper Things by Jennifer Richard Jacobson (Candlewick Press, 2015).

When Ari's mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment. He and Ari have been "couch surfing," staying with Gage's friend in a tiny apartment, crashing with Gage's girlfriend and two roommates, and if necessary, sneaking into a juvenile shelter to escape the cold Maine nights. But all of this jumping around makes it hard for Ari to keep up with her schoolwork, never mind her friendships, and getting into Carter starts to seem impossible. Will Ari be forced to break one of her promises to Mama?

Pieces of Why by K.L. Going (Kathy Dawson Books, 2015).

Twelve-year-old Tia lives in a white slum in New Orleans with her mother, and her whole world revolves around singing in the gospel choir with her best friend, Keisha--but when practice is interrupted by a shooting outside the church, and a baby is killed, Tia finds that she cannot sing, and she is forced to confront her feelings about her incarcerated father who killed a girl in a failed robbery years before.

Rad American Women A-Z by Kate Schatz & Miriam Klein Stahl (City Light Books, 2015).

Like all A-Z books, this one illustrates the alphabet—but instead of "A is for Apple", A is for Angela—as in Angela Davis, the iconic political activist. B is for Billie Jean King, who shattered the glass ceiling of sports; C is for Carol Burnett, who defied assumptions about women in comedy; D is for Dolores Huerta, who organized farmworkers; and E is for Ella Baker, who mentored Dr. Martin Luther King and helped shape the Civil Rights Movement. And the list of great women continues, spanning several centuries, multiple professions, and 26 diverse individuals. There are artists and abolitionists, scientists and suffragettes, rock stars and rabble-rousers, and agents of change of all kinds.

Red Butterfly by A.L. Sonnichsen (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Kara never met her birth mother. Abandoned as an infant, she was taken in by an American woman living in China. Now eleven, Kara spends most of her time in their apartment, wondering why she and Mama cannot leave the city of Tianjin and go live with Daddy in Montana. Mama tells Kara to be content with what she has...but what if Kara secretly wants more?

****Roller Girl*** by Victoria Jamieson (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015).

For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship. As the end of summer nears and her first roller derby bout (and junior high!) draws closer, Astrid realizes that maybe she is strong enough to handle the bout, a lost friendship, and middle school... in short, strong enough to be a roller girl.

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Stella by Starlight by Sharon Draper (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Stella lives in the segregated South—in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community—her world—is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.

Terrible Typhoid Mary by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015).

What happens when a person's reputation has been forever damaged? With archival photographs and text among other primary sources, this riveting biography of Mary Mallon by the Sibert medalist and Newbery Honor winner Susan Bartoletti looks beyond the tabloid scandal of Mary's controversial life. How she was treated by medical and legal officials reveals a lesser-known story of human and constitutional rights, entangled with the science of pathology and enduring questions about who Mary Mallon really was. How did her name become synonymous with deadly disease? And who is really responsible for the lasting legacy of Typhoid Mary?

The Blackthorn Key by Kevin Sands (Aladdin, 2015).

In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend Tom try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart.

The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly (Henry Holt, 2015).

Travis keeps bringing home strays. And Callie has her hands full keeping the wild animals—her brother included—away from her mother's critical eye. Whether it's wrangling a rogue armadillo or stray dog, a guileless younger brother or standoffish cousin, the trials and tribulations of Callie Vee will have readers laughing and crying and cheering for this most endearing heroine.

The Great Good Summer by Liz Garton Scanlon (Beach Lane Books, 2015).

Ivy Green's mama has gone off with a charismatic preacher called Hallelujah Dave to The Great Good Bible Church of Panhandle Florida. At least that's where Ivy and her dad think Mama is. But since the church has no website or phone number and Mama left no forwarding address, Ivy's not entirely sure. She does know she's missing Mama. And she's starting to get just a little worried about her, too.

****The Honest Truth*** by Dan Geminhart (Scholastic Press, 2015).

A boy named Mark, tired of being sick with cancer, conceives a plan to climb Mount Rainier, and runs away from home with his dog, Beau—but with over two hundred miles between him and his goal, and only anger at his situation to drive him on, nothing will be easy, and only his best friend, Jessie, suspects where he is heading.

****The Marvels*** by Brian Selznick (Scholastic Press, 2015).

Told in two stand-alone stories, the first nearly 400 pages of continuous pictures, and the second in text. In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900—and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences.

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The Nest by Kenneth Oppel (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015).

For some kids summer is a sun-soaked season of fun. But for Steve, it's just another season of worries. Worries about his sick newborn baby brother who is fighting to survive, worries about his parents who are struggling to cope, even worries about the wasp's nest looming ominously from the eaves. So when a mysterious wasp queen invades his dreams, offering to "fix" the baby, Steve thinks his prayers have been answered. All he has to do is say "Yes." But "yes" is a powerful word. It is also a dangerous one. And once it is uttered, can it be taken back?

The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk by Sy Montgomery (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015).

With three hearts and blue blood, its gelatinous body unconstrained by jointed limbs or gravity, the octopus seems to be an alien, an inhabitant of another world. It's baggy, boneless body sprouts eight arms covered with thousands of suckers--suckers that can taste as well as feel. The octopus also has the powers of a superhero: it can shape-shift, change color, squirt ink, pour itself through the tiniest of openings, or jet away through the sea faster than a swimmer can follow. But most intriguing of all, octopuses--classed as mollusks, like clams--are remarkably intelligent with quirky personalities. This book, an inquiry into the mind of an intelligent invertebrate, is also a foray into our own unexplored planet. These thinking, feeling creatures can help readers experience and understand our world (and perhaps even life itself) in a new way.

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).

One kid. One crime. One chance to make things right. It was a bitterly cold day when Arthur T. Owens grabbed a brick and hurled it at the trash picker. Arthur had his reasons, and the brick hit the Junk Man in the arm, not the head. But none of that matters to the judge--he is ready to send Arthur to juvie for the foreseeable future. Amazingly, it's the Junk Man himself who offers an alternative: 120 hours of community service . . . working for him.

The Witch's Boy by Kelly Barnhill (Algonquin Young Readers, 2014).

When Ned and his identical twin brother tumble from their raft into a raging river, only Ned survives. Villagers are convinced the wrong boy lived. Across the forest that borders Ned's village, Áine, the daughter of the Bandit King, is haunted by her mother's last words: "The wrong boy will save your life, and you will save his." When the Bandit King comes to steal the magic Ned's mother, a witch, is meant to protect, Áine and Ned meet. Can they trust each other long enough to cross a dangerous enchanted forest and stop the war about to boil over between their two kingdoms?

Interest Level 7+

A Little in Love by Susan Fletcher (Chicken House, 2015).

Inspired by Victor Hugo's classic, *Les Misérables*, *A Little in Love* beautifully conveys the heartbreaking story of street girl Eponine.

****All American Boys+*** by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

In an unforgettable new novel from award-winning authors Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely, two teens—one black, one white—grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.

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An Ember in the Ashes+ by Sabaa Tahir (Razorbill, 2015).

Laia is a Scholar living under the iron-fisted rule of the Martial Empire. When her brother is arrested for treason, Laia goes undercover as a slave at the empire's greatest military academy in exchange for assistance from rebel Scholars who claim that they will help to save her brother from execution.

Backlash+ by Sarah Darer Littman (Scholastic Press, 2015).

When Christian, a boy she knows only through Facebook, posts a lot of nasty comments on her page, fifteen-year-old Lara tries to kill herself--but that is only the beginning of the backlash for her sister, Sydney; her former friend Bree; and her classmates.

Breakout+ by Kevin Emerson (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Fourteen-year-old eighth-grader Anthony Castillo uses "f-bombs" in the angst-ridden song he writes for his rock band, the Rusty Soles, and while it becomes an instant viral hit, he must decide if being a hero is worth the trouble that singing it on Arts Night would cause.

****Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans*** by Don Brown (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015).

A graphic novel account of the Hurricane Katrina disaster in November of 2005, when the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and surrounding areas were flooded and more than fourteen hundred people lost their lives.

Egg and Spoon by Gregory Maguire (Candlewick Press, 2014).

Impoverished Russian country girl Elena Rudina and the aristocratic Ekatrina meet and set in motion an escapade that includes mistaken identity, a monk locked in a tower, a prince traveling incognito, and the witch Baba Yaga.

Enchanted Air by Margarita Engel (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle, the first Latina woman to receive a Newbery Honor, tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War.

Eyes Wide Open: Going Beyond the Environmental Headlines by Paul Fleischman (Candlewick Press, 2014).

Paul Fleischman offers teens an environmental wake-up call and a toolkit for decoding the barrage of conflicting information confronting them.

Hello?+ by Liza Wiemer (Spencer Hill, 2015).

Linked and transformed by one phone call, Hello? weaves together five Wisconsin teens' stories into a compelling narrative of friendship and family, loss and love, heartbreak and healing, serendipity, and ultimately hope.

March: Book Two by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin Illustrated by Nate Powell (Top Shelf Productions, 2015).

After the success of the Nashville sit-in campaign, John Lewis is more committed than ever to changing the world through nonviolence - but as he and his fellow Freedom Riders board a bus into the vicious heart of the deep south, they will be tested like never before.

Need+ by Joelle Charbonneau (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015).

In this exploration of the dark side of social media, and government control and manipulation, the teenagers in a small town are drawn deeper and deeper into a social networking site that promises to grant their every need--regardless of the consequences.

* indicates committee favorite

+ indicates mature content

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Nimona by Noelle Stevenson (HarperTeen, 2015).

National Book Award Finalist. Nimona is an impulsive young shapeshifter with a knack for villainy. Lord Ballister Blackheart is a villain with a vendetta. As sidekick and supervillain, Nimona and Lord Blackheart are about to wreak some serious havoc. Their mission: prove to the kingdom that Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies at the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics aren't the heroes everyone thinks they are.

**Orbiting Jupiter* by Gary D. Schmidt (Clarion Books, 2015).

Jack, 12, tells the gripping story of Joseph, 14, who joins his family as a foster child. Damaged in prison, Joseph wants nothing more than to find his baby daughter, Jupiter, whom he has never seen. When Joseph has begun to believe he'll have a future, he is confronted by demons from his past that force a tragic sacrifice.

Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard (HarperTeen, 2015).

Mare is a Red blood, a mere thief in a poor village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court where she discovers she has a supernatural ability of her own, so to cover up this impossibility the king forces her to play the role of a lost Silver princess, but Mare risks everything to help the growing Red rebellion.

Srsly Hamlet+ by William Shakespeare & Courtney Carbone (Random House, 2015).

Imagine: What if Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, and the tragic Ophelia had smartphones? A classic is reborn in this fun and funny adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most famous plays!

The Boy in the Black Suit+ by Jason Reynolds (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015).

Just when seventeen-year-old Matt thinks he can't handle one more piece of terrible news, he meets a girl who's dealt with a lot more—and who just might be able to clue him in on how to rise up when life keeps knocking him down—in this "vivid, satisfying, and ultimately upbeat tale of grief, redemption, and grace.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler by Phillip Hoose (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2015).

At the outset of World War II, Denmark did not resist German occupation. Deeply ashamed of his nation's leaders, fifteen-year-old Knud Pedersen resolved with his brother and a handful of schoolmates to take action against the Nazis if the adults would not. Naming their secret club after the fiery British leader, the young patriots in the Churchill Club committed countless acts of sabotage, infuriating the Germans, who eventually had the boys tracked down and arrested. But their efforts were not in vain: the boys' exploits and eventual imprisonment helped spark a full-blown Danish resistance.

The Six by Mark Alpert (Sourcebooks, 2015).

Adam, crippled by muscular dystrophy, and five other terminally ill teenagers sacrifice their bodies and upload their minds into weaponized robots to battle a dangerously advanced artificial intelligence program bent on destroying humanity.

The Start of Me and You by Emery Lord (Bloomsbury, 2015).

It's been a year since it happened--when Paige Hancock's first boyfriend died in an accident. After shutting out the world for two years, Paige is finally ready for a second chance at high school. . .and she has a plan. First: Get her old crush, Ryan Chase, to date her--the perfect way to convince everyone she's back to normal. Next: Join a club--simple, it's high school after all. But when Ryan's sweet, nerdy cousin, Max, moves to town and recruits Paige for the Quiz Bowl team (of all things!) her perfect plan is thrown for a serious loop. Will Paige be able to face her fears and finally open herself up to the life she was meant to live?

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The Wrong Side of Right by Jenn Marie Thorne (Dial Books, 2015).

After her mother dies, sixteen-year-old Kate Quinn meets the father she did not know she had, joins his presidential campaign, falls for a rebellious boy, and when what she truly believes flies in the face of the campaign's talking points, Kate must decide what is best.

The Young Elites by Marie Lu (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2014).

Adelina Amouteru survived the blood fever, a deadly illness that killed many, but left others with strange markings and supernatural powers. Cast out by her family, Adelina joins the secret society of the Young Elites and discovers her own dangerous abilities.

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March by Lynda Blackmon Lowery (Dial Books, 2015).

As the youngest marcher in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, Lynda Blackmon Lowery proved that young adults can be heroes. Jailed eleven times before her fifteenth birthday, Lowery fought alongside Martin Luther King, Jr. for the rights of African-Americans. In this memoir, she shows today's young readers what it means to fight nonviolently (even when the police are using violence, as in the Bloody Sunday protest) and how it felt to be part of changing American history.

Walking Two Worlds by Joseph Bruchac (7th Generation, 2015).

Hasanoanda was his Indian name. But in mission school he became 'Ely Parker.' He encountered racism and deceit but did not give up his quest to walk between two worlds. This story explores the early education of a famous Native American who gained greatness in the white man's world while staying true to his Seneca people.

We Are All Made of Molecules+ by Susin Nielsen (Wendy Lamb Books, 2015).

Thirteen-year-old brilliant but socially-challenged Stewart and mean-girl Ashley must find common ground when, two years after Stewart's mother died, his father moves in with his new girlfriend--Ashley's mother, whose gay ex-husband lives in their guest house.

Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015).

Naila's vacation to visit relatives in Pakistan turns into a nightmare when she discovers her parents want to force her to marry a man she's never met. This heart-wrenching novel explores what it is like to be thrust into an unwanted marriage. Has Naila's fate been written in the stars? Or can she still make her own destiny?

YOLO Juliet+ by William Shakespeare & Brett Wright (Random House, 2015).

Two families at war. A boy and a girl in love. A secret marriage gone oh-so-wrong. What if those star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet had smartphones? The classic Shakespeare play told through its characters texting with emojis, checking in at certain locations, and updating their relationship statuses.

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