

FANTASTIC STORIES

Kaleidoscope Eyes by Jennifer Bryant. In 1968, with the Vietnam War raging, 13-year-old Lyza inherits a project from her deceased grandfather, who had been using his knowledge of maps and the geography of Lyza's New Jersey hometown to locate the lost treasure of Captain Kidd.

Leo and the Lesser Lion by Sandra Forrester. In Depression-era Alabama, twelve-year-old Mary Bayliss Pettigrew struggles to understand why her beloved older brother, Leo, died and whether she, miraculously, survived for some special purpose.

Princess of the Midnight Ball by Jessica Day George. A retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who wear out their shoes dancing every night, and of Galen, a former soldier now working in the king's gardens, who follows them in hopes of breaking the curse.

Newsgirl by Liza Ketchum. San Francisco is booming in 1851, and 12-year-old Amelia Forrester and her family are eager to make a new life there. But the mostly male town is not friendly to females. Thinking she will earn more money as a boy, Amelia cuts her hair and joins a gang of newsboys, selling newspapers for a fortune.

GHOST STORIES

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. Nobody Owens is a normal boy, except that he has been raised by ghosts and other denizens of the graveyard.

The Devouring by Simon Holt. Reggie loves horror stories, as "practice" for the real scary things in life--except the story of the Vours becomes TOO real, as Reggie must race against time to save her brother Henry from the monster that is taking over his soul.

Ruined: A Novel by Paula Morris. When Rebecca's father sent her to stay with her eccentric "Aunt" in New Orleans as he left for China, she never imagined that she would become friends with a ghost, or try to end a 100 year old curse!

The Stone Child by Dan Poblocki. Eddie is thrilled that his family is moving to the same town where his favorite horror writer disappeared 13 years ago, until he discovers that the stories Nathaniel Olmstead was writing about were more real than anyone could imagine--and are still prowling the neighborhood.

The Paranormal Caught on Film by Melvyn Willin. Spooky photos of "ghosts" lurking in everyday snapshots.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

T-Minus: The Race to the Moon by Jim Ottaviani. Learn about the battle between the U.S. and Soviets to be first to the moon in this graphic novel.

Calamity Jack by Shannon Hale. In this graphic novel interpretation of "Jack and the Beanstalk," Jack is a born schemer who climbs a magical beanstalk in the hope of exacting justice from a mean giant and gaining a fortune for his widowed mother, aided by some friends.

Jim Butcher's the Dresden files: Welcome to the Jungle by Jim Butcher. When the Chicago police are stumped by a grisly murder at the zoo, they call in private investigator/wizard Harry Dresden to solve the case.

JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM

Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past by James Deem. Freeze-dried bodies help scientists unravel history.

The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Human Body by David Macaulay. Hundreds of illustrations show you how your body works.

What the World Eats by Peter Menzel. Peg's elbows, treacle, head cheese and musk ox; find out what's for dinner around the world. Includes lots of illustrations and recipes with weekly grocery lists.

Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting by Jim Murphy. During World War I German and British soldiers defied their commanders, climbed out of their trenches and celebrated Christmas together.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson. Join in the manhunt for John Wilkes Booth in this story of the first great American true crime.

SCHOOL TROUBLES

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg. Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind and now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

Scat by Carl Hiaasen. Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing.

Joseph by Sheila Moses. 15 year old Joseph lives in a homeless shelter with his addict mom while his father is fighting in Iraq. He loves his mother but she keeps using him to get more welfare and loans from relatives. He loves tennis but his mom pushes for basketball. Can he turn his life around by going to a new school?

Zen and the Art of Faking It by Jordan Sonnenblick. When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism provides the answer--and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master.

ATHLETIC ACTION

Boost by Kathryn Mackel. Thirteen-year-old Savvy's dreams of starting for her elite basketball team are in danger when she is accused of taking steroids.

Homestretch by Paul Volponi. Following his mother's death in a car crash caused by an illegal alien, Gaston runs away from his alcoholic father and finds work at a race track.

The Girl Who Threw Butterflies by Mick Cochrane. Eighth-grader Molly's ability to throw a knuckleball earns her a spot on the baseball team, which not only helps her feel connected to her recently deceased father, who loved baseball, it helps in other aspects of her life as well.

FUNNY BUSINESS

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen. Things get out of hand for a 12-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his lawn mowing business.

Nation by Terry Pratchett. After a devastating tsunami destroys all that they have ever known, Mau, an island boy, and Daphne, an aristocratic English girl, together with a small band of refugees, set about rebuilding their community and all the things that are important in their lives.

How Not to be Popular by Jennifer Ziegler. Seventeen-year-old Sugar Magnolia Dempsey is tired of leaving friends behind every time her hippie parents decide to move, but her plan to be unpopular at her new Austin, Texas, school backfires when other students join her on the path to "supreme dorkdom."

Once Upon a Marigold by Jean Ferris. A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

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in grades 6 - 8**

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