

### Booklist for Readers in Grade 6

**Never Cry Wolf** by Farley Mowat. Assigned by the Canadian government to investigate reports of wolves slaughtering caribou, Mowat was dropped alone onto the frozen tundra, where he lived among the wolf packs and studied their ways. He discovered not a den of marauding killers, but a courageous family of skillful providers and devoted protectors of their young. He came to fear the savagery of the bounty hunters and government exterminators who seemed bent upon erasing wolves from the Arctic.

**The Dog Who Wouldn't Be** by Farley Mowat. As a boy on the Canadian prairie, Mowat met Mutt, a dog of uncertain pedigree and certain eccentricity who climbed trees and ladders, rode in an open car wearing goggles, and hunted with a skill approaching genius. A thoroughly marvelous dog portrayed in a thoroughly wonderful story.

**Honey-Bun** by Anne Stockton. A beautifully written story about a beloved pet, and a work of art - poetic prose, luminous pastel paintings, and a story both unique and universal.

**Animals as Teachers and Healers:** *True Stories and Reflections* by Susan Chernak McElroy. McElroy began her journey toward writing this book when she discovered that she had cancer. As a part of her healing, she reconnected with her love for animals, gathering story after story about the amazing love and care possible between humans and animals and between animals and animals.

**Animals as Guides to the Soul** by Susan Chernak McElroy. A passionate and eloquent portrait of the truths and revelations people have experienced in their daily encounters with animals. As the author reminds us, the fingerprint of God is often a pawprint.

**Conversations with Animals:** *Cherished Messages and Memories as Told by an Animal Communicator* by Lydia Hiby with Bonnie S. Weintraub. For years, Hiby forgot that she could talk to animals, until she rediscovered her skill. This is a deep account of the lives of animals told by a warm and modest soul who knows how to stand aside and let the animal speak for itself.

**When Elephants Weep:** *The Emotional Lives of Animals* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson with Susan McCarthy. As Jane Goodall writes, "If animals could read they would be filled with joy and gratitude to the authors - as I am. It is scholarly, vivid, and compelling. Please read it."

**Dogs Never Lie About Love:** *Reflections on the Emotional World of Dogs* by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson. Our "best friends" have a rich and wonderful inner landscape. The author's three dogs are the centerpieces of the book and lead the way in his exploration of a wide range of subjects.

**Kinship with All Life** by J. Allen Boone. While pet-sitting a dog movie star named Strongheart, Boone discovered that he could comprehend Strongheart's thoughts, and Strongheart could comprehend his. Boone soon met flies, ants, birds, snakes and more who revealed secret after secret to his listening heart. This book will change your relationship with animals forever.

**Wise Child** by Monica Furlong. In a remote Scottish village, nine-year-old Wise Child is taken in by Juniper, a healer and sorceress. Then Wise Child's mother, Maeve, a black witch, reappears. In choosing between Maeve and Juniper, Wise Child discovers the extent of her supernatural powers, and her true loyalties.

**Juniper** by Monica Furlong. Though Juniper enjoys the easy life of a medieval princess, she chooses to learn about herbs, healing, and the magic within nature from her strange and difficult godmother. As her training comes to an end, Juniper discovers that her power-hungry aunt is using black magic to seize the throne. Juniper must use her as-yet-untested powers to stop her—before the kingdom is destroyed.

**Colman** by Monica Furlong. Set in very early Christian times, this is a fantasy of a faraway age, when the mystical and the commonplace walked hand in hand. The healer, Juniper, and her apprentice, Wise Child, are accused of witchcraft and forced to flee their small town. Wise Child's devoted cousin, Colman, escapes with them. This is his story of their arrival to the land of Juniper's birth, where she is, in fact, a princess.

**The Three Candles of Little Veronica:** *The story of a child's soul in this world and the other* by Manfred Kyber. This story, written early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is of a little girl who becomes ill and is carried by her angel back to her spiritual home. Despite the grief of all who loved her, the aftermath of her passing shines more brightly than Veronica's three candles and it becomes evident that Veronica lives on, though in a different realm. This unique story is one of beauty, hope and love, and the reminder that life only changes, never dies.

**The Dark is Rising Sequence** by Susan Cooper: *Book One: Over Sea, Under Stone. Book Two: The Dark is Rising. Book Three: Greenwitch. Book Four: The Grey King. Book Five: Silver on the Tree.* This series tells of the struggle between the forces of light and darkness, in images that beautifully mirror the human heart and prose that almost sings. Exciting adventures and gripping stories of the threat of overpowering evil, the struggle to preserve human freedom, and the final triumph of the human spirit.

**The Star Rider** and **Anna McLoon**, *Two Tales from Ireland*, retold by Jakob Streit. *The Star Rider* tells of a young man who learns of a dreadful destiny laid upon him by the position of the stars at his birth: a story of injustice turned to right through honesty. *Anna McLoon* tells the story of Ireland's last traveling storyteller.

**Empty Pages** by Jon Turley. Jasper is a teenager whose parents don't have much to say to him. When his grandfather reads from a friend's war diary, stories of wartime valor and struggle come to life in ways that change Jasper's life and hopes.

**Columban** by Jakob Streit. St. Columban (540-615 AD) is not to be confused with St. Columba of Iona, who was also Irish and a contemporary. Columban is largely credited with the development of monasteries and monastic life, and revered for the development of Celtic Christianity, which merged the Celts' reverence for nature with Roman Christianity.

**The Falconer:** *A Story of Frederick II of Hohenstaufen* by Christopher Sblendorio. A beautiful biography of the man who became the Holy Roman Emperor during the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Well researched and well written.

**Famous Men of Ancient Rome:** *Lives of Julius Caesar, Nero, Marcus Aurelius and others* by John H. Haaren and A.B. Poland. One of the most interesting histories ever written with young students in mind. Its biographical sketches are arranged chronologically from 753 BC, the estimated founding of Rome, to AD 476, the fall of the Western Empire.

**Geron and Virtus:** *A Fateful Encounter of Two Youths, A German and a Roman* by Jakob Streit. The story of two boys during the Roman campaign to conquer the Germanic tribes, featuring friendship, slavery, honor, and adventure.

**The Story of King Arthur and His Knights** told and illustrated by Howard Pyle. The classic tales of the Arthurian legend, told by a master. How Arthur established his right to the throne by drawing the sword from the anvil and battled to secure Excalibur; how he confronted the Duke of North UMBER and Sir Pellias; how he wooed and wedded the Lady Guinevere; how he created the Round Table.

**The Story of the Grail and the Passing of Arthur** told and illustrated by Howard Pyle. The rich chronicle of the Quest for the Holy Grail and the last days of King Arthur. Begins with the exciting story of Sir Geraint: his fight with the knight of Sparrow-Hawk, his setting right the wrongs of the earldom, how he destroyed three giants of the highway, and more. Next, the exploits of Sir Galahad, "the most perfect knight who ever lived": his initiation into knighthood, how he came to the court

of King Arthur, his attack on Sir Launcelot, his fatal battle with Sir Mordred, and Arthur's final journey to Avalon.

**The Story of Sir Lancelot and His Companions**, told and illustrated by Howard Pyle.

Sir Launcelot was friend to Arthur and ultimate defender of good. Tells of his daring rescue of Queen Guinevere, his slaying of the dragon and romance with Elaine the Fair, the jousting tournament at Astolat, the story of Sir Ewain and the Lady of the Fountain, Launcelot's battle with madness, the birth of his son Galahad, and more.

**The Story of the Champions of the Round Table**, told and illustrated by Howard Pyle. The stories of Sir Launcelot, Sir Tristram, and Sir Percival are among the most colorful and enduring in the vast body of Arthurian legend. Includes the love story of Tristram and Isolt; King Mark and the magic potions; Launcelot's emergence from the castle of the Lady of the Lake and his glorious deeds; Percival's championship of the Lady Yvette and his adventures at the Castle of Beaurepaire.

**Sir Gawain and the Green Knight** retold in modern prose by Jessie L. Weston. A gigantic stranger clad in green bursts in on King Arthur's New Year's feast to issue a fearsome challenge to the knights of the Round Table: any of the knights may strike off his head, but that knight must be willing to receive a similar blow from the Green Knight in one year's time. Only the gallant Gawain volunteers to uphold the dignity of Camelot.

**The Boy Apprenticed to an Enchanter** by Padraic Colum. This story unfolds during the Middle Ages and is filled with mystery, intrigue and adventure. There are battles against evil in several forms, and a long journey to find the truth and Merlin the Magician, who knows all the answers.

**Otto of the Silver Hand**, written and illustrated by Howard Pyle. Young Otto is born into a warring household in the Middle Ages, when lawless chieftains are fighting each other and despoiling merchant caravans.

**Captains Courageous** by Rudyard Kipling. A spoiled rich boy is swept off the deck of a luxury ocean liner and rescued by a fishing vessel; his apparent misfortune becomes a blessing.

**The Hobbit** and **The Lord of the Rings** by J.R.R. Tolkien. One of the all-time greatest stories ever – a masterpiece of epic proportions, where the joy of goodness shines radiantly pure and the chill of evil creeps with unmistakable darkness. Through it all, the imperfect, comfort-loving Hobbits uphold the destiny of the world, one uncertain step at a time.

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott. Largely based on the author's childhood, this is a timeless tale of the four March sisters - Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy - who grow to maturity in their mother's tender but strong and loving care (their father was a Civil War physician).

**Magic Mangrove Seed: A Story-Reading Book for Primary Grades** by Alan Whitehead. A lively and original Australian graded story book. Contents: punctuation, fables, nature, geography, grammar, health, seasons, foreign language, fractions, farming, history.

**Stories and Poems for Extremely Intelligent Children of all Ages** selected by Harold Bloom.

Captivating, imaginative gems that will enthrall and delight children of all ages. Includes Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, Robert Louis Stevenson, Kipling, Melville, Tolstoy, Edith Wharton and Walt Whitman.

**The Clown of God** by Tomie dePaola. The French legend of the clown whose final gift to God is a selfless outpouring of his talents. Deeply moving and inspiring.

**The Female Mouse** by Kummuda Reddy. Meet the tiny mouse who is transformed into the daughter of a holy man. After being courted by the Sun God, the Cloud God, the God of the Wind, and the God of the Mountain, she finds her ideal partner and learns the importance of being true to your own nature.

**Tales from African Dreamtime** retold by Magdalene Sacranie. Folk tales from many different African traditions, told in a lively, conversational style. Discover how human beings lost their tail; puzzle over riddles; and meet a variety of animals, from a lazy rabbit to a wicked leopard.

**The Troll of Tree Hill** by Judy Large. A long, captivating story about a grumpy little troll who doesn't like humans but finds his homeland "invaded."

**Tales the Harper Sang**, *Medieval Stories* by Isabel Wyatt. Includes many tales of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, drawn from the Welsh, English, Breton, and French traditions and full of swords, castles, jousts, gallant knights and beautiful damsels, wise counsel, and reckless adventure.

**Please, Can We Keep the Donkey?** *A Collection of Animal Rescue Stories*. The Massachusetts School of Law Community. Dozens of personal accounts of successful animal adoptions and rescues. Meet a rabbit who is an architect, dogs too ugly to pet, an orphaned cat who bonds with an orphaned girl, an unruly dog who brings aid to senior citizens, and other animals whose lives have changed the people who took them in.

**Pagoo** by Holling Clancy Holling. An intricate study of the teeming life of tide pools, told through the adventures and misadventures of Pagoo, a hermit crab.

**Seabird** by Holling Clancy Holling. A sailor carves an ivory gull and takes it on his whaling ship. Later, they sail on clipper ships to the South Seas and the Orient. Seabird then rides with the sailor's son, grandson and finally great-grandson, eventually traveling on steamships and airplanes.

**The Railway Children** by E. Nesbit. In this classic, the comfortable lives of three children are altered when their father is taken away and they are forced to live with their mother in a country cottage near a railway station.

**Five Children and It** by E. Nesbit. "It" is a Psammead, an ancient, irritable sand fairy the children find in a gravel pit. It grants them a wish a day, but they soon learn it is hard to think of really sensible wishes.

**The Story of the Amulet** by E. Nesbit. In this sequel to *Five Children and It*, the Psammead leads the children to an amulet which has the power to take them back anywhere in time.

**The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame. A classic. The wonderful creatures of the Wild Wood include Ratty, Mole, Mr. Toad, and Mr. Badger.

**A Little Princess** by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Sara Crewe seems like a little princess at Miss Minchin's London boarding school, but suddenly becomes penniless and must wear rags, sleep in the school's dreary attic, and work for her living.

**The Chronicles of Narnia** by C.S. Lewis. *The Magician's Nephew; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe; The Horse and His Boy; Prince Caspian; The Voyage of the Dawn Treader; The Silver Chair; The Last Battle*. A wonderful, invigorating journey, filled with high adventure, good friends, and the Beauty that is Truth. Recommended without reservation.

**The Holy Night** by Selma Lagerlöf. One of the truest of the many legends of the First Christmas. A man goes out to find fire to warm his wife and newborn son; he comes at last to a hard-hearted shepherd, who sits by the very fire he is seeking. All the world then works to help the father and soften the shepherd's heart.

**The Emperor's Vision and Other Christ Legends** by Selma Lagerlöf. Profoundly beautiful, timeless stories; some are best told only to older children, while some can become family treasures at a very early age.

**Swedish Folk Tales.** Some stories are appropriate for younger children; other themes are more complex, and some encounters of humans and elemental beings are rather robust.

**The Swiss Family Robinson** by Johann D. Wyss. This family is shipwrecked and must start from scratch on a desert island. Their resourcefulness and adventures are legendary, and the characters are all admirable and vigorous.

**Finn Family Moomintroll:** *Hats off to the adventures of spring!* by Tove Jansson. Moomintroll and his friends Snufkin and Sniff find the Hobgoblin's enchanted top hat. Enhanced with Jansson's simple, sprightly drawings, this series of delightful stories about life in Moomin Valley has enchanted families around the world for more than forty years.

**Comet in Moominland:** *Can Moomintroll save his beloved valley?* by Tove Jansson. When Moomintroll learns that a comet will be passing by, he and his friend Sniff travel to the Observatory on the Lonely Mountains to consult the Professors.

**Moominland Midwinter:** *It's a brave new world for Moomintroll!* by Tove Jansson. Moomins sleep through the winter, but this year, Moomintroll wakes up early. What is this strange white stuff? Determined to discover the truth about this most mysterious of seasons, Moomintroll goes where no Moomin has gone before.

**Moominpappa at Sea:** *Anchors aweigh for adventure!* by Tove Jansson. The Moomin family goes to live in a lighthouse on a tiny island and discovers surprising, and surprisingly funny, things about themselves.

**Moominpappa's Memoirs:** *Moominpappa tells all!* by Tove Jansson. At last it can be told! The true story of Moominpappa's youth - his triumphs, tribulations, and momentous meetings with the Joxter and the Muddler (the fathers of Snufkin and Sniff, respectively), and, of course, Moominmamma.

**Moominvalley in November** by Tove Jansson. Remembering Moominpappa and Moominmamma, six lonely friends find their separate ways back to their loving household, but the Finn family Moomintroll is gone. The six put up with each other until they eventually learn how pleasant communal life can be.

**The Tale of Alain** by Arnold Zimmermann. Alain Souris is an adventurous mouse from Marseilles, France who sails to America. This fascinating story weaves seafaring lore and nature stories with life along the Mississippi from Cajun New Orleans to Lakota territory in Wisconsin. Along the way, there are helpful animals, French-speaking Lakotas, wizards and dragons, dwarves, root children and Mother Earth -- and a plot to foil and a life to save.

**Mr. Goethe's Garden** by Diana Cohn. A beautifully illustrated classic story of the friendship between an inquisitive young girl and her elderly neighbor, Johann von Goethe, who teaches her how to listen to plants with her eyes and see them with her heart.

**The Midwife's Apprentice** by Karen Cushman. A medieval story about a girl named Brat who is apprenticed to the village midwife, a hard woman with a sharp glance and a sharper temper.

**The Ballad of Lucy Whipple** by Karen Cushman. California during the Gold Rush doesn't suit Lucy Whipple, but moving out West was her mama's dream. Lucy vows to be miserable until she can hightail it back East, but she is in for a surprise.

**Star-Child: A Fable** by Oscar Wilde. A star falls from the winter sky into a wood, and two shepherds find a strange infant. One of them raises it as his own. Though beautiful, the Star-Child turns out to be a cruel and selfish boy. This is the lovely story of his struggle for redemption.

**In Blue Mountains: *An Artist's Return to America's First Wilderness*** by Thomas Locker. An artist sets out to explore wilderness and discovers a new way of seeing. Locker's luminous paintings inspire a deep appreciation for the beauties of the world.

**Worry Week** by Anne Lindbergh. Forced to fend for themselves, three girls learn to live off the land. A masterful tale.

**Quest for Kelpie** by Frances Mary Hendry. In fast-moving story set in 1745, at a crucial moment in Scotland's history, a poor working girl decides the fate of two kings.

**Hox** by Annemarie Allan. Robbie is thrust into a perilous journey through the inhospitable landscape of a Highland winter – alone except for two enigmatic traveling companions. During the journey, his old life slowly unravels and a shocking realization emerges.

**The Witches' Mark** by Donald Lightwood. A gripping tale involving witch trials, superstition and smuggling in 17th century Britain.

**Dragonfire** by Anne Forbes. Clara and Neil MacLean are the protagonists of this fast-paced comic adventure set in Edinburgh, full of magic, mayhem, mystery, and a dragon.

**Wings of Ruksh, *Sequel to Dragonfire*** by Anne Forbes. Clara and Neil set out with old and new friends on a perilous journey full of danger, daring, and a reluctant broomstick.

**The Underground City** by Anne Forbes. A third outing for Neil, Clara and their dragon: monsters and mayhem return in a breathtaking tale of magic and nightmare.

**The Chaos Clock** by Gill Arbuthnott. Kate and David are 11-year-old best friends in Edinburgh, where time is coming unstuck and the past is breaking loose – and only they can set things right.

**Chaos Quest** by Gill Arbuthnott. Sequel to *The Chaos Clock*. 18 months later, Kate and David become involved in a race to prevent the barriers between times from being blown away forever.

**The Children of Green Knowe** by L.M. Boston. Young Tolly isn't sure what to expect when he is sent to spend a holiday with his great-grandmother in her huge castle of a house in England.

**Treasure Forest** by Cat Bordhi. A classic for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, combining the page-turning adventure of Harry Potter with the heart-warm depth of the *Narnia* series, this book shines with love for humanity and nature. Highly recommended.

**Buzzy and the River Rats** by John Clarke Hoffman. *Book 1: Buzzy Moves In. Book 2: Exploring the Town. Book 3: Romance and Adventure.* This series chronicles the excitement, friendships, mishaps and young romance of growing up in 1950's small-town America.

**Julie of the Wolves** by Jean Craighead George. A young Eskimo girl is lost in the Alaskan wilderness without food or a compass. Slowly she is accepted by a pack of Arctic wolves and grows to love them as though they were family.

**Julie** by Jean Craighead George. In this sequel to *Julie of the Wolves*, Julie returns to live with her father in their Inuit village.

**Boy: *Tales of Childhood*** by Roald Dahl. Dahl's tales of his own childhood are completely fascinating and unendingly funny.

**The Phantom Tollbooth** by Norton Juster. Milo visits the island of Conclusions (you get there by jumping), learns about time from a ticking watchdog named Tock, and embarks on a quest to rescue Rhyme and Reason in this classic tale.

**The Story of King Arthur and Other Celtic Heroes** by Padraic Colum. After more than a thousand years, the Celts stand among the world's greatest storytellers, and these tales are alive with wonder and excitement.

**The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood**, written and Illustrated by Howard Pyle. Robin Hood stood outside an unjust law, yet upheld a truer law, and with a generous heart. Here are stories to nourish our children's brave hearts.

**Black Beauty** by Anna Sewell. The suspenseful and deeply moving account of a horse's experiences at the hands of many owners - some sensitive riders who treated him gently, others cruel drivers who thoughtlessly inflicted lasting damage. Reveals much about the social ills of 19<sup>th</sup>-century England.

**The Boy with the Bronze Ax** by Kathleen Fidler. What does one do when strangers arrive with new and potentially threatening technology? A riveting story of Stone Age life.

**Something Upstairs: A Tale of Ghosts** by Avi. To set the spirit of a young African American slave to rest, a contemporary boy must travel back in time to 1800.

**The Dark Way** by Virginia Hamilton. The retelling of 24 myths and folktales from around the world filled with monsters, devils and phantoms "eager to leap into the corners of our imaginations."

**Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark** by Alvin Schwartz. With genuinely creepy illustrations, this collection of American folklore should be read with the lights on.

**The Thing at the Foot of the Bed and Other Scary Tales** by Maria Leach. Thirty-five stories about ghosts, some scary and some funny.

**Gone-Away Lake** by Elizabeth Enright. Eleven year-old Portia and her brother spend a summer with their cousin engaged in more than the usual pastimes: they discover an abandoned resort and an elderly eccentric brother and sister.

**The Melendy Quartet** by Elizabeth Enright. The charming adventures of siblings Mona, Rush, Randy and Oliver Melendy, first published in 1941 and illustrated by the author. Includes *The Saturdays*, *The Four-Story Mistake*, *Then There Were Five*, and *Spiderweb for Two: A Melendy Maze*.

**Thimble Summer** by Elizabeth Enright. A silver thimble and a new friend make a girl's summer magical.

**The Ghost Came Calling** by Betsy Ren Wright. Chad likes the rundown cabin at the lake until he discovers it's haunted by a ghost who doesn't want company.

**Old Yeller** by Fred Gipson. A powerful story of a 14-year-old boy and the ugly stray dog he comes to love.

**Babe: The Gallant Pig** by Dick King-Smith. A piglet destined for butchering arrives at the farmyard, is

adopted by an old sheepdog, and discovers a special secret to success.

**The Incredible Journey** by Sheila Burnford. The adventures of a Labrador retriever, a terrier, and a Siamese cat, who journey 250 miles through the Canadian wilderness to return home.

**King of the Wind** by Marguerite Henry. Sham was a legendary Godolphin Arabian horse, swift as the desert winds but scorned all his life by cruel masters. This is the classic story of Sham and his stable boy Agba.

**The Cay** by Theodore Taylor. Blind American boy and an old West Indian native are stranded on a Caribbean island.

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen. Following a plane crash, a boy survives 54 days in the Canadian wilderness.

**The Illyrian Adventure** by Lloyd Alexander. Vesper Holly and her guardian set sail for the tiny country of Illyria in search of treasure, only to find themselves in the middle of a war.

**My Side of the Mountain** by Jean Craighead George. Sam Gribble spends a winter alone in the Catskill Mountains.

**The Scorpio Ghosts and the Black Hole Gang** by Kathy Kennedy Tapp. Four children are bored with their parents' idea of renovating an old schoolhouse in Wisconsin, until they meet a floating ghost.

**Snow Treasure** by Marie McSwigan. Children smuggle gold out of occupied Norway on their sleds.

**Stone Fox** by John Reynolds Gardiner. Little Willy competes against the Indian Stone Face in the National Dogsled Races.

**The Wheel on the School** by Meindert DeJong. Why do the storks no longer come to the little Dutch fishing village of Shora to nest? Six schoolchildren set out to bring them back.

**Trouble River** by Betsy Byars. A thrilling historical adventure about young Dewey and his feisty grandmother fighting for their lives on a river raft.

**The Black Stallion** by Walter Farley. A wild Arabian stallion and the boy who trained him.

**Owls in the Family** by Farley Mowat. Gophers, garter snakes, pigeons, rats and owls make family life exciting on the Saskatchewan prairie.

**Shiloh** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. When Marty finds a mistreated puppy, he knows he should return it to the rightful owner, but struggles with this as he know the puppy will be abused again.

**Souder** by William H. Armstrong. Wrongly accused, an innocent man and his son are saved from pursuers by their loyal dog, Souder.

**Trouble With Tuck** by Theodore Taylor. A girl trains her blind dog to follow and trust a guide dog of his own.

**Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls. After spending weeks training his dogs, Billy enters the annual coon-hunt contest and wins.

**The Waterstone** by Rebecca Rupp. The Fishers, a water people only 12 inches tall, have noticed that the ponds are ebbing and the world is drying up. Tad and his sister and father set out to find the cause and realize that the precious Waterstone is missing.

**The Agony of Alice** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Alice is growing up without a mother to advise her and has only her father and brother, who aren't much help.

**The Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson. Story of a boy and a girl, two fifth-graders, who build an imaginary kingdom of art, literature and friendship – until tragedy occurs.

**Coco Grimes** by Mary Stolz. Thomas, who has just turned 11, is dying to go to Miami to meet Coco Grimes, a man who once played baseball in the Negro Leagues.

**Dear Mr. Henshaw** by Beverly Cleary. An award-winning novel of a boy who pours out his problems in letters to a writer he greatly admires.

**Dacey's Song** by Cynthia Voigt. Abandoned by their mother, Dacey and the younger children move in with their grandmother and start a new life.

**The Great Gilly Hopkins** by Katherine Paterson. Eleven-year-old Gilly is placed in a new foster home with an unusual foster mother.

**More Stories Julian Tells** by Ann Cameron. Episodes in the life of Julian, including a bet with his best friend, a science project, and what happens when his brother decides to be Superboy.

**Pinballs** by Betsy Byars. Two boys and a girl meet in the foster home where they've been sent to live.

**On My Honor** by Marion Dane Bauer. Twelve-year-old Joel must learn to live with fear and grief after his friend Tony drowns in a treacherous river.

**Plain City** by Virginia Hamilton. A racially mixed 12-year-old girl seeks her African-American identity.

**The Skirt** by Gary Soto. Can Miata find the beautiful folklorico skirt her mother has loaned her in time for her dance performance?

**Wanted: Mud Blossom** by Betsy Byars. The Blossom family has an eventful weekend during which Pap's dog Mud is put on trial for the murder of the school hamster.

**Where the Lilies Bloom** by Vera Cleaver. An Appalachian girl is determined to fulfill her father's last request to keep the family together.

**The BFG** by Roald Dahl. Sophie is saved by the BFG (Big Friendly Giant) and finds herself in a strange environment.

**The Boggart** by Susan Cooper. When the Volnik family in Toronto inherits an ancient castle in Scotland, they also inherit the Boggart, a mischievous spirit that has lived there for centuries.

**The Book of Three** by Lloyd Alexander. The fate of the peaceful kingdom of Prydain hangs in the balance as a young pig-keeper and a great warrior battle the forces of evil.

**The Cricket in Times Square** by George Selden. A Connecticut cricket is transported in a picnic basket to

New York's Times Square.

**The Dark Stairs:** *A Herculeab Jones Mystery* by Betsy Byars. The daughter of a police detective and a private eye becomes a sleuth in this fast-paced mystery.

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry. A haunting story in which a boy who inhabits a seemingly ideal world experiences something incredible and undertakes something impossible.

**Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt. Mysterious story about the Tuck family, whose members drink from a magical spring and never grow old.

**A Wrinkle in Time** by Madeleine L'Engle. Meg and her friends are spirited to another world by three extraterrestrial beings.

**Bound for Oregon** by Jean Van Leeuwen. A fictionalized account of the journey of nine-year-old Mary Ellen Todd and her family along the Oregon Trail in 1852.

**Caddie Woodlawn** by Carol Brink. The delightful escapades of a red-haired tomboy and her brothers in early Wisconsin.

**The Door in the Wall** by Marguerite de Angeli. Set in the 14th century, the classic story of one boy's personal heroism when he loses the use of his legs.

**A Family Apart** (*The Orphan Train series*) by Joan Lowrey Nixon. The story of Frances Mary and the other Kelly children sent to St. Louis in the mid-19th century to live with frontier families.

**From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler** by E.L. Konigsburg. Claudia and her younger brother, Jamie, decide to run away – right into a mystery that makes headlines!

**Sarah Plain and Tall** by Patricia MacLachlan. Two children wait on the prairie for the arrival of a New England woman who has answered their father's ad for a wife.

**The Bronze Bow** by Elizabeth George Speare. Daniel bar Jamin is passionate about driving the Roman legions from Israel. He heads down a destructive path toward disaster and meets Jesus of Nazareth.

**Calico Captive** by Elizabeth George Speare. In 1754, Charlestown, New Hampshire, is shattered by the terrifying cries of an Indian raid. Young Miriam Willard finds herself a captive on a forest trail, caught up in the ebb and flow of the French and Indian War.

**The Sign of the Beaver** by Elizabeth George Speare. Twelve-year-old Matt is left on his own in the Maine wilderness. When he befriends an Indian chief's grandson, he is invited to join the Beaver tribe and move north. Should Matt go, abandoning his hopes of seeing his family again?

**Island of the Blue Dolphins** by Scott O'Dell. Karana, an Indian girl, lived alone for years on the Island of the Blue Dolphins in the Pacific. Hers is not only an unusual adventure of survival, but also a tale of natural beauty and personal discovery.

**Understood Betsy** by Dorothy Canfield Fisher. This well-loved classic tells of a girl growing up on a Vermont farm in the early 1900s.

**Anastasia Krupnik** by Lois Lowry. Anastasia's tenth year has some good things like falling in love and getting to know her grandmother, and some bad things like finding out her mother is going to have a baby.

**Chocolate Fever** by Robert Kimmel Smith. Henry Green develops the first recorded case of chocolate fever.

**The Great Brain** by John D. Fitzgerald. The shrewdest con artist west of the Mississippi during the early 1900s was 10-year-old Tom Fitzgerald, alias The Great Brain.

**How to Eat Fried Worms** by Thomas Rockwell. In this very funny story, Billy takes on a bet -- he will eat 15 worms a day.

**Kevin Corbett Eats Flies** by P. Hermes. Kevin and his friend conspire to prevent Kevin's father from moving himself and Kevin yet again.

**The Best School Year Ever** by Barbara Robinson. The incorrigible Herdmans from *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* are back in this book of laugh-out-loud adventures.

**The Burning Questions of Bingo Brown** by Betsy Byars. During Bingo's sixth-grade year, he falls in love three times for starters.

**Harriet the Spy** by Louise Fitzhugh. Precocious, overprivileged Harriet darts around her Manhattan neighborhood, ferreting out and writing down the worst and best on her scene, sparing no one.

**Wayside School Gets a Little Stranger** by Louis Sachar. More zany episodes with the children who inhabit the world's wackiest elementary school.

**Me, Mop and the Moondance Kid** by Walter Dean Myers. Mop wants to star in Little League baseball, hoping she will get adopted by the couple coaching her team.

**No Arm in Left Field** by Matt Christopher. The new kid in town tries out for the baseball team, but his weak throwing arm causes friction between him and the shortstop.

**Outside Shooter** by Thomas Dygard. Story of a first-year coach and his challenge to shape up an uncontrollable yet talented player.

**Skinnybones** by Barbara Parks. Tale of a Little League misfit.

**S.O.R. Losers** by Avi. Everyone at South Orange River Middle School is expected to participate in one sport each year, and this is the story of a soccer team that would rather be doing something else.

**The Trading Game** by Alfred Slote. The baseball card Andy longs to add to his almost complete collection is the one for his own grandfather in this fast-paced and funny story.

**The Indian In the Cupboard** by Lynn Reid Banks. A boy receives a plastic toy Indian which comes to life.

**The Rescuers** by Margery Sharp. The Prisoners' Aid Society of mice wants to free a Norwegian poet from the dungeon of the Black Castle.

**Swallows and Amazons** by Arthur Ransome. John, Susan, Titty and Roger sail their boat, Swallow, to a deserted island for a summer camping trip. Two fierce Amazon pirates, Nancy and Peggy, challenge them to war, and a summer of battles and alliances ensues.

**Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm** by Kate Douglas Wiggin. In this 1903 children’s classic, 10-year-old Rebecca is energetic, high-spirited, and full of mischief. The two aunts who are raising her on a Maine farm try to turn her into a proper young lady.

**Tom’s Midnight Garden** by Philippa Pearce. Tom is shipped off to stay with Aunt Gwen and Uncle Alan in their boring old apartment. He counts the days... until the landlady’s antique grandfather clock strikes thirteen times, leading Tom to a magical discovery.

**The Jungle Book** by Rudyard Kipling. The boy Mowgli is raised by wolves in the jungles of India. All the animals retain their animal character while giving us a glimpse of the wisdom of creation. Includes short stories, among them “Rikki Tikki Tavi.”

**Anne of Green Gables** by L.M. Montgomery. Anne is everyone’s “kindred spirit” and these are stories to grow with and linger over. The “Anne” books include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Anne of Avonlea*, *Anne of the Island*, *Anne of Windy Poplars*, *Anne’s House of Dreams*, *Anne of Ingleside*, *Rainbow Valley*, and *Rilla of Ingleside*.

**The Story of Colors/La Historia de los Colores**, *a folktale in both English and Spanish from the jungles of Chiapas*, by Subcomandante Marcos. Once upon a time the world was black, white and gray, so the gods went looking for other colors. Told in melodic Spanish, complex enough to engage upper-grades English speakers, and warm English; accompanied by vivid paintings. Published by Zapatista revolutionaries; dustjacket features their propaganda.

**Catscape** by Mike Nicholson. Fergus can’t believe it when his brand-new digital watch starts going backward. Then he crashes (literally) into gadget-loving Murdo, and a second mystery comes to light—all around the neighborhood, cats are missing.

**The Dragon Boy: Book One of the Star Trilogy** by Donald Samson. Orphaned twice by the time he was nine, he was living on the streets and did not even know his own name. This enjoyable story will stimulate conversation around good and evil, bullying, finding a purpose in life, destiny, perseverance, and above all, courage.

**The Dragon of Two Hearts: Book Two of the Star Trilogy** by Donald Samson. Answering a call of distress, the knight Michael finds a king surprisingly reluctant to be rid of the shadow of fear the dragon casts over his land, in this riveting sequel to *The Dragon Boy*.

**Simon’s Challenge** by Theresa Breslin. Simon realizes that he may have witnessed a major burglary; the only problem is that he can’t remember any details. An exciting detective story, with realistic characters and a gripping plot.

**The Six Lives of Fankle the Cat** by George Mackay Brown. Fankle the Cat tells the stories of his various lives – with pirates, in ancient Egypt, and even with China’s Empress.

**The Sula Quartet** by Lavinia Derwent. *Book 1: Sula. Book 2: Return to Sula. Book 3: The Boy from Sula. Book 4: Song of Sula.* Four books about life on a tiny island in the Hebrides and the exciting adventures of a boy called Magnus Macduff, who loves every inch of it and knows all the animals, birds and colorful characters.