

Grade 7

Moderate to Challenging

Airborn by Kenneth Oppel

Matt Cruse must help save his luxury airship, Aurora, from pirates, shipwrecks, and mysterious flying creatures.

Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Artemis is a millionaire, a genius – and a criminal mastermind.

Breathe: A Ghost sSory by Cliff McNish

After Jack and his mother move into an old house, he believes that the spirits he encounters are harmless, but he soon discovers that one of them is not what she seems to be.

Darkside by Thomas Becker

Jonathan's father is in an asylum. He finds secret messages from his father that lead him to the Darkside of London that is ruled by Jack the Ripper's children. Can he survive?

The Goats by Brock Cole

Stripped and marooned on a small island by their fellow campers, a boy and a girl form an uneasy bond that grows into a deep friendship when they decide to run away and disappear without a trace.

Heir Apparent by Vivian Vande Velde

While playing a virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, 14-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

Kek survives a war in the Sudan that claims the lives of both his father and brother but can he adapt to a new life in the US and still remain true to his own beliefs? Free verse.

Jump Man Rule #1: Don't Touch Anything by James Valentine

A young man from the future inadvertently time-jumps into today and disobeys rule #1.

Keeping Corner by Kashmira Sheth

When Leela is unexpectedly widowed at age 12, her carefree life ends. But with India changing, can Leela learn what she needs to change her circumstances, too?

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

After a meteor hits the moon, Miranda and her family realize the danger and prepare for the worst as the world faces all sorts of natural disasters.

Pemba's Song: A Ghost Story by Tonya Hegamin and Marilyn Nelson

As Pemba adjusts to leaving Brooklyn for a small town, a black history specialist helps her research the ghostly images pulling her into the life of a slave who lived in her new house.

Perfect by Natasha Friend

Isabelle Lee is dealing with her father's death through bulimia. While in counseling, she is shocked to find her school's "perfect" and popular girl with the same problem.

The Sea of Trolls by Nancy Farmer

After Jack becomes apprenticed to a Druid bard, he and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls.

Soldier Boys by Dean Hughes

Two boys, one American and one German, eagerly enter World War I with high aspirations but instead experience the realities and hopelessness of war.

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

Tally should be getting the mandatory operation that will turn her Pretty, but instead she must choose to betray her friend or stay Ugly forever.

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Addie lives in a small trailer with her neglectful mother, but she longs for a normal family and to live with her step-father and half-sisters.

Less challenging

A Boy At War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer

While fishing with his friends in Honolulu on December 7, 1941, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack, and through the chaos of the subsequent days tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the USS Arizona when the bombs fell.

A Boy No More by Harry Mazer

After his father is killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Adam, his mother, and sister are evacuated from Hawaii to California, where he must deal with his feelings about the war, Japanese internment camps, his father, and his own identity.

Confessions of a Closet Catholic by Sarah Darer Littman

Justine Silver's best friend Mac gave up chocolate for lent. Justine doesn't think God wants her to make that kind of sacrifice, so she gave up chicken, and being Jewish, instead.

Firegirl by Toni Abbott

A middle school boy's life is changed when Jessica, a girl disfigured by burns, starts attending his Catholic school while treatment at a nearby hospital.

Listening for Lions by Gloria Whelan

Orphaned by the influenza epidemic in 1918 and shipped to England to take the place of her neighbor's dead daughter, Rachel struggles to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Even though his classmates from first grade on have considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.

Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy by Sonya Sones

A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.