

Newberry Awards and Intermediate Fiction Books

Cleary, Beverly. **Dear Mr. Henshaw**. Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., 1983.



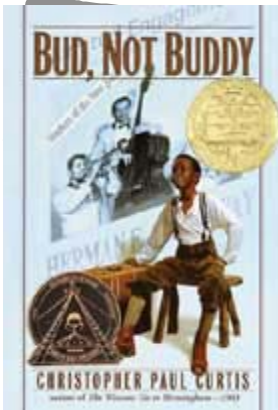
Leigh Botts, who is having trouble with someone stealing his lunchbox, decides to write letters to his favorite author, Mr. Henshaw. This book is about the letters he writes to this author sharing information about his family situation. Read to find out what Leigh writes to him and what the author writes back to Leigh. You might be surprised at some of the topics they discuss in these letters. In the end, there is a nice ending with Leigh and his dad. Read to see what happens

Cushman, Karen. **The Midwife's Apprentice**. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1995.



This story is about a homeless, 14th century young woman who is discovered by Jane the Midwife. Jane, who is a very unfriendly midwife, takes "Brat" in and teaches her how to be a midwife's helper (her apprentice). "Brat" who ends up giving herself the name of Alice, learns how to become a wonderful and kind midwife until a terrible incident drives her away from the village and from Jane. Read this inspiring story to see how Alice overcomes this incident and what she finally decides to do with her life...at the end of the story.

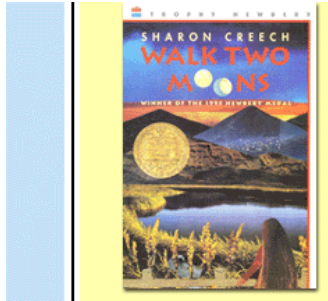
Curtis, Christopher Paul, **Bud, Not Buddy**. New York. Delacorte Press, 1999.



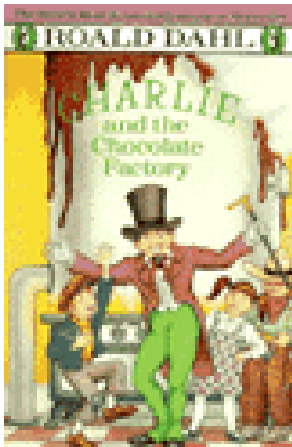
This is a story about a boy, in the Depression era, who has to deal with being an orphan. First his mom passes when he is 6, then he has to go live in an orphanage located in his hometown of Flint, Michigan.

While living in the orphanage, he has been told of a family who has a 12-year-old son and Bud ends up living with them for a short while. Bud is nervous about this and sad since he has not found a good home yet. Despite his misfortune of having to leave that family, he sets off on an adventure to find his father, the great bandleader Herman E. Calloway. Read on to find out if he ever does have luck in finding his father and whether or not Herman E. Calloway is really Bud's dad.

Creech, Sharon. **Walk Two Moons**. New York: Harper Collins Publishers. 1994.



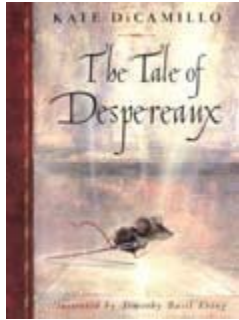
In this touching story, Salamanca ends up discovering things about her mom that she didn't know about after her disappearance. This story tells you about these discoveries Sal makes when she travels across the country with her grandparents to retrace the route her mother took before her disappearance. During her trip, she shares stories with her grandparents about her friend Phoebe Winterbottom, who also had her mother to leave their family. Throughout the story she tells to her grandparents, she sees the similarities between the 2 friends. Read this story to see what Sal uncovers about her mom's disappearance. There is a great mystery involved and you will be surprised to find what is finally discovered.



Dahl, Roald. **Charlie and Chocolate Factory**. Illustrations by Joseph Schindelman. New York: Puffin Books. 1964.

Charlie Bucket, a poor little boy who lives with his Grandparents and parents in a one-room house is going to be one of the luckiest boys soon. You see, Charlie has found a dollar to buy 2 chocolate bars. Charlie loves chocolate so much but can't afford it often. Fortunately, one of those bars has the lucky gold ticket that makes him one of the five winners to enter Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. For Charlie, Violet, Mike, Augustus and Veruca, there's quite an adventure waiting for them inside of Mr. Wonka's magnificent chocolate factory. Read this book to find out what awaits them inside...the Oompa-Loompas, the streams and mountains made of fudge, the amazing gobstoppers and so much more. Read to see who is the final child left...which makes this child the winner!

DiCamillo, Kate. **The Tale of Despereaux.** Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. Massachusetts: Candlewick Press, 2003.



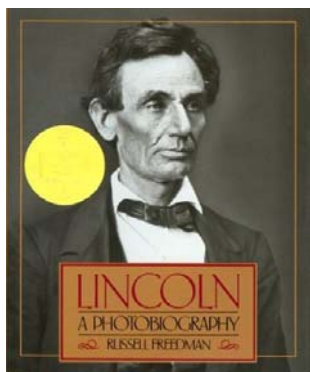
This book tells an adventurous story about a little mouse named Despereaux, the Princess Pea, a rat named Chiaroscuro and a girl named Miggery Sow. Each character tells his or her own story throughout this book.

Despereaux is sentenced to death and has to go in the dungeon with the rats. This is because of his love for the Princess Pea and reading. This is quite contrary to normal mouse behavior.

Miggery Sow who ends up becoming a servant in the castle has experienced a tragedy involved with her mother's death. After her mom's death, her father sells her for a red tablecloth, some cigarettes and a hen. Miggery longs to become a princess herself despite her gloomy life and mistreatment from her Uncle, the man who bought her from her father.

Chiaroscuro (Roscurro), the rat, has such a love for the light. This curiosity and love brings him to causing a horrible tragedy in the castle. Roscurro eventually ends up falling into Queen Rosemary's Soup. The queen dies and because of the disgust Princess Pea shows Roscurro, his heart is broken and he sees his way regrettably back to the dark, desolate dungeon. This also, of course angers Roscurro and he plots a way to get revenge with the Princess Pea.

Read on to find out how these 3 characters finally meet up and what the final outcome of their adventure .



Freedman, Russell. **Lincoln A Photobiography.** Clarion Books. 1987.

This is a wonderful resource to use in learning about the life of Abraham Lincoln. The wonderful pictures really tell his story. Russell Freedman takes you back to Lincoln's childhood, telling you about his parents and then goes into his life with his wife and children before he became the president. His photographs help you to see President Lincoln as a person. You can also learn about Lincoln's political career before the presidency .

Read interesting facts about Lincoln such as what he did at the age of 17.

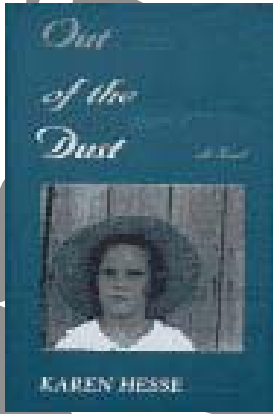
Find out what were the major issues during his term in Congress. Read about how his 4 children lived in the White House during his presidency and which college his son Robert attended. When Lincoln, passed, they found newspaper clippings he kept in his pocket. Read to find out more about these.

A great book to teach you historical facts about one of our great presidents.

Hesse, Karen. **Out of Dust.** New York: Scholastic Press. 1997.

Here is a touching story about a girl in Oklahoma living during the depression era.

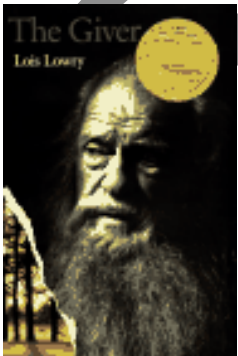
Billie Jo shares through this free verse written story about significant events in her life during 1934.



She and her mom have a great musical talent which is playing the piano. Billie Jo shares how her mom is such a magnificent piano player and she follows in her mom's footsteps with this. Times are very hard and along with the rough financial issues, the dust storms occur frequently causing many people to move west. In addition to this, an unforeseen tragedy occurs when Billie Jo's pregnant mom accidentally throws kerosene onto the stove causing a horrific accident. Billie Jo's mom ends up dieing and the baby doesn't survive either.

Read this story to see how Billie Jo and her father cope with this tragedy. Read to see what Billie Jo does when her father just seems like he's gone deeper into a depressive state of mind and see what Billie Jo realizes after she leaves the home.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver.* New York: Random House Children's Books. 1993.



Jonas and the others his age, are about to receive their assignments. Jonas learns that he is to become the most important one, "The Receiver of Memory". In this ideal world, everything is perfect. Everyone is happy with no family problems. There is no war, crime and diseases don't exist. Everyone is respectful to each other. Wow, what a world! Also in this perfect world, everyone is assigned a job. Read to learn about what's involved with Jonas's role. Find out why this society doesn't want to be burdened with memories. See how

Jonas handles this responsibility and how he handles learning new things he's never been exposed to before in his life.

Lowry, Lois. **Number The Stars**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1989.

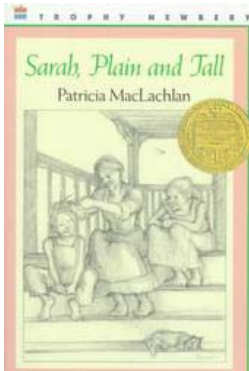


This story takes place in 1943 when the Nazi soldiers are trying to relocate all Jews of Denmark. This is a story of 2 families, the Johansens and the Rosens who are trying to cope with the dangers involved during this event in history. The Rosens are trying to get safely to Sweden. They leave their daughter, Ellen, with her friend's family, the Johansens.

This is a story about their friendship and how Anne Marie Johansen goes through so much determination to help her friend. Read to find what happens when the Nazi soldiers come to the Johansens apartment one night and they question the family about Ellen, because her hair is not blonde like theirs. Read to see how they overcome this fearful night and about the significance of Ellen's necklace. Why must she take it off? More importantly, read to see if the Rosens do make it safely to Sweden and how

the Johansens play such a significant role in helping them.

Mac Lachlan, Patricia. **Sarah, Plain and Tall**. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1985.



Caleb and Anna are living alone with their Pa. Their mother died after Caleb was born. Sarah, a young woman from Maine, answers an ad that their Papa put in the newsletter asking for a wife. Read on to find out about the things that they experience when Sarah comes to live with them and whether or not she ends up staying. See if she decides to go back to Maine.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Shiloh**. New York: Dell Publishing. 1991.



Marty, an eleven-year-old boy discovers a dog named Shiloh on the roadside one day. Shiloh and Marty become attached to each other. Marty's parents tell him to return Shiloh to his owner but the dog runs away from his owner to Marty's house. Marty suspects that Shiloh is being abused and begins to worry very much about this dog's safety. Now, it's very evident that Shiloh has been beaten so Marty sets out to keep Shiloh from danger by doing something deceitful. Read to find out what happens to Marty and this sweet little dog named Shiloh. It's interesting to find out who finally gets to keep Shiloh.

Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. New York: Clarion Books. 2001.



This is a story of hope and compassion. Tree-ear who is a homeless boy, discovers his love for wanting to learn pottery from the master potter, Min. In conversations with Crane-Man, another homeless man who takes care of Tree-ear, he discovers his desire to want to learn how to make such delicate pottery. Through hiding to see Min at work, Tree-ear ends up accidentally breaking one of Min's pieces and has to work to pay his debts.

Read this story to find out how Min receives his opportunity to learn from Min but there are many twists and turns that will happen before Tree-ear has a chance to do this. Something comes out of his opportunity to create a pot, from the emperor's assistant giving him that chance. See how Tree-ear endures from the tragic thing that happens during his travel to the emperor's palace. Read to see how this affects what he does in the ending.

Paterson, Katherine. ***Bridge to Terabithia***. Illustrated by: Donna Diamond. New York: Harper Collins Publishing. 1977.



Remember the days when you couldn't wait to come home and play in your own little world ...away from all of the school situations that have made you feel uncomfortable. This book is about Jess who ends up becoming best friends with his new neighbor, Leslie. They create their imaginary play world of Terabithia and escape all of the little "not so good" school occasions. The two friends have a magnificent time in their own world of Terabithia everyday ...until one day an awful, unimaginable tragedy happens that tears Jess apart from his friend Leslie... forever.

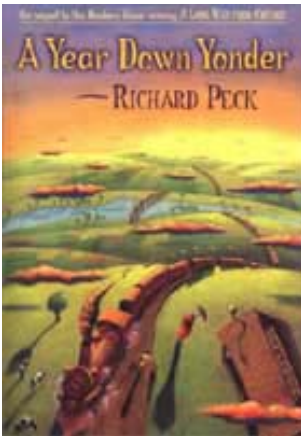
Read to find out how Jess overcomes this tragedy and how he ends up enduring and ruling Terabithia alone

Paulsen, Gary. **Hatchet**. New York: Children's Publishing Division. 1987.



Here is a story about a brave young boy name Brian who is facing some tough situations in his life. His parents are divorced and he holds a deep secret about his mom that is tearing him apart. It gets worse for Brian as he now has to face the challenge of surviving a horrific plane crash in the Canadian mountains. Read to see how Brian faces this ordeal and one of his own inner challenges of dealing with his parents divorce.

Read on to see how his challenge of surviving in the woods helps him sort through everything he's facing and how it has a positive effect on his outlook of life. Read to see the significance of his hatchet and how it has a big influence on his survival in the wild. It is interesting to see how he is rescued from the wilderness.



Peck, Richard. **A Year Down Yonder**. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers. 2000.

This story takes place during the depression era. A 15 year old girl named Mary Alice has to leave her home of Chicago to go live with her grandmother for a year since her parents are facing financial difficulties. During the stay in the little rural town, Mary Alice learns a lot from her grandmother and about the living in this different lifestyle with Grandma Dowdel. Read to find out about Mary Alice's experience and see if she liked leaving or not when it was time for her to return to Chicago.

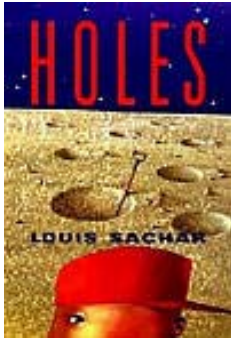


Pilkey, Dav. **Captain Underpants and The Wrath of The Wicked Wedgie Woman**. New York: Scholastic, Inc. 2001.

In this hilarious book of Dav Pilkey's, George and Harold create Wedgie Woman, who was their teacher. She becomes the meanest, fastest, strongest and smartest woman in the world. They create her by mistake. When their super juice spills on her head, she grows super hair that can twist, turn, and do crazy things. It can pick up George and Harold, swing them around and give them wedgies...Ouch!!

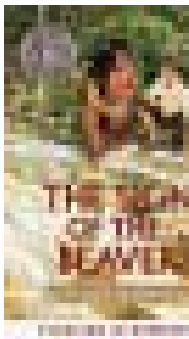
Read to see what happens when she creates "The Harold 2000" and "Robo-George". You may have to use a mirror to read her robot design plans. This book is just filled with lots of excitement, adventures and surprises.

Read to see if Wedgie Woman succeeds in trying to take over the world or if Captain Underpants can save the town.



Sachar, Louis. **Holes**. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

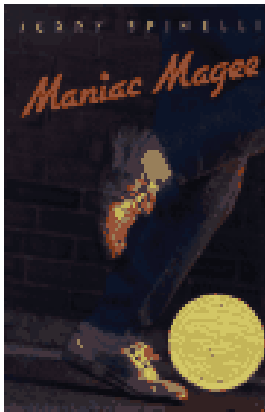
Stanley Yelnats has inherited the curse of his great great grandfather. Stanley is accused of a crime he did not commit and he is sentenced to serve at Camp Green Lake Boys' Detention Center. This is where these boys are to build character by digging holes five feet wide and five feet deep everyday single day in that hot, hot Texas desert sun. Stanley ends up making a friend at Camp Green Lake. Read to find out what's related to the curse that was put on his great great grandfather from many years ago. Read to find out what happens during Stanley's torturous adventure at Camp Green Lake and how they uncover the truth behind the Warden's desire for the boys to dig and dig and dig.



Speare, Elizabeth George. **The Sign of the Beaver**. New York: Dell Publishing Company. 1983.

This story takes place in the late 1760's. Matt and his family are moving to where there is more land. He and his father journey out to be settled in Maine. Once they find the land, he and his father begin to build their home and set up. Matt's father needs to go back to bring the other family members while Matt stays and continues to build the house and get it ready for the other family members. During Matt's stay alone, he befriends an Indian boy named Attean. Read to find out about the adventures of the 2 boys and read to find out how they teach each other different lessons. Read to find out what happens toward the end and whether Matt decides to wait for his family or whether he decides to leave with Attean's family since his family has not arrived when his father said they would.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Maniac Magee**. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1990.



This is a very touching yet humorous story about a brave little boy named Jeffrey Lionel Magee. Later, he becomes known as “Maniac Magee” when he gets to the town of Two Mills.

This story teaches us about the impact of being prejudice, the importance of having a loving family and of having a desire to learn new things. All of these things are taught to us by the experiences “Maniac Magee” has throughout this story.

From the start of Maniac Magee’s bad experience of living with his aunt and uncle who do not like each other, he teaches us how we should look at what we do in life. He is so fed up with this situation that he screams at them at a school concert to talk to each other. He then runs away in search of a loving home. Maniac Magee ends up in the town of Two Mills where the Blacks and Whites are divided. Through Jeffrey’s desire to find a loving family and by having no fear of new experiences, he ends up helping this town to become a friendlier town.

Read to see about the funny things Maniac Magee does when he meets the people of Two Mills and how they react to him.