

## Annotations (organized alphabetically by Author)

### Adoff, Jaime

Title: *Jimi & Me*

ISBN: 9781423104001

Publisher: Hyperion Books

Date: 2005

Genre: Contemporary Fiction, Verse

Awards: Coretta Scott King Award

*Jimi & Me* is a free verse novel that starts off with Keith trying to deal with the murder of his father. All of a sudden, everything in his life starts to change. The one thing that brings him comfort is the music of Jimi Hendrix. Powerful issues come to light in this remarkable read!

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

### Almond, David

Title: *Skellig*

ISBN: 0440229081

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

Date: 2001

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Printz Honor

Ten-year-old Michael is coping with a lot. His new baby sister is dangerously ill, his new house is crumbling down around him, and he is caring for a strange creature he has found in his garage. Michael and Mina, his new friend, nurse Skellig back to health as he tries to understand exactly who or what Skellig is.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

### Bennett, Cheri

Title: *Anne Frank and Me*

Publisher: Puffin USA

ISBN 0-689-11973-8

Date: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fantasy

Awards: International Reading Association/Children's Book Council "Children's Choice" (2002); Double nominee, ALA

"Best Books for Young Adults and YALSA "Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers" (2002)

During a class field trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole falls and suffers a head injury. When she regains consciousness, she discovers that she has been mysteriously transported back in time as a Jewish teenager to Paris during the Nazi occupation. The first person narration engages the reader in a personal account of the experiences of French Jews during the Second World War.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Boyne, John

Title: *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

ISBN: 85751532

Publisher: Random House

Date: 2007

Genre: Historical

Awards:

*The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* is set during 1942 and is told from the perspective of a young German boy, Bruno. His father has just been promoted and the family is compelled to move to an isolated location. Bruno decides to explore along the long fence one day and meets another young boy whose life is very different from his own. Their friendship results in tragedy. This is a powerful rendering of the Holocaust and its devastating effects upon children.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Bray, Libba

Title: *A Great and Terrible Beauty*

ISBN: 0385732317

Publisher: Delacorte

Date: 2003

Genre: Horror, Fantasy, Historical

Awards:

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen year old Gemma returns to England after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Buchanan, Andrea J. and Miriam Peskowitz

Title: *The Daring Book for Girls*

ISBN: 978-0-06-147257-2

Publisher: Collins

Date: 2007

Genre: Informational

Awards:

*The Daring Book for Girls* is the companion manual for *The Dangerous Book for Boys*. Wide ranging topics include How to Negotiate a Salary, Cootie Catchers, Friendship Bracelets, and How to Be a Spy. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations to the text. Readers can dip in and dip out with ease. There is something for every girl here.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Buffie, Margaret

Title: *Who is Frances Rain?*

ISBN: 0-919964-83-4

Publisher: Kids Can Press Ltd.

Date: 1989

Genre: Fantasy, Mystery

Awards:

Fifteen-year old girl Elizabeth with her family, including a new step-dad, vacation at her grandmother's cottage for the summer holidays. While exploring the mysterious Rain Island, Lizzie discovers a mysterious pair of glasses that take her back to the past. She embarks on a journey of discovery that connects her past to the present. This book is a marvelous read that has fantastic results in the classroom.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Burtenshaw, Julie

Title: *Freedom of Jenny*

ISBN: 1551928396

Publisher: Raincoast Books

Date: 2005

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards:

This is a gripping historical fiction about Jenny Estes, a young girl who is born into slavery in Missouri during the 1840s. Jenny and her family make a long and often torturous journey to Salt Spring Island, Canada and along the way she encounters

many physical hardships, suffers through tragedy, and discovers love.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## **Choldenko, Jennifer**

Title: *Al Capone Does My Shirts*

ISBN: 01 42403709

Publisher: Penguin Young Reader Group

Date: 2006

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Newbery Honour Book

Moose Flannigan lives on Alcatraz with his family where his dad works as a prison guard. Natalie, his sister who has autism, is Moose's responsibility. Moose tries to meet the demands of caring for her but this becomes increasingly challenging as his friendship with the warden's daughter grows.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## **Clarke, Joan**

Title: *The Word for Home*

Publisher: Penguin Books

ISBN 0-14-100502-5

Date: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Children's Choice Award 2004

This is a beautifully written, award winning, Newfoundland novel about young sisters who are left in the care of the mean-spirited Mrs. Hatch (or Sour Olive as the girls prefer to call her) after their mother dies and their father leaves them to look for gold.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

## **Colfer, Eoin and Andrew Donkin**

Title: *Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel*

ISBN: 078684882

Publisher: Hyperion Books

Date: 2007

Genre: Graphic Novel, Fantasy

Awards:

*Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel* retains the original intent of the novel of the same title. The twelve year old brilliant Artemis Fowl is engaged in shady money making schemes that involve

stealing secret fairy information and kidnapping an officer in the fairy army, Captain Holly Short. The fairy troops come to negotiate with Artemis Fowl. An innovative look at the subterranean world of dwarves, elves, and gnomes, this graphic novel with its action-packed, full-colour panels will be sure to appeal to young adolescent readers.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

## Coman, Carolyn

Title: *many stones*

ISBN: 0330399179

Publisher: Puffin

Date: 2000

Genre: Realistic

Awards: Printz Honour Book

Berry Morgan comes to terms with her older sister's murder by traveling to South Africa with her father to attend Laura's memorial service. The trip transforms them both by releasing their grief and resurrecting their damaged relationship.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Covey, Sean

Title: *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make: A Guide for Teens*

ISBN: 9780743265041

Publisher:

Date: 2006

Genre: Contemporary, Informational

Awards:

In *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make*, Sean Covey gives teens the strong advice they need to make informed and wise decisions. Using real stories from teens around the world, Sean shows how to succeed in school, make good friends, get along with parents, wisely handle dating and sex issues, avoid or overcome addictions, build self-esteem, and much more.

The six key decisions are:

School: What you going to do about your education?

Friends: What types of friends will you choose, and what kind of friend will you be?

Parents: Are you going to get along with your parents?

Dating and Sex: Who will you date, and what will you do about sex?

Addictions: What will you do about the addictive stuff?  
 Self-Worth: Do you like yourself?

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Creech, Sharon

Title: *Love that Dog*  
 ISBN: 0064409597  
 Publisher: Harper Collins  
 Date: 2003  
 Genre: Poetic verse  
 Awards:

*Love that Dog* is told in verse through a series of written responses from the main character, Jack, to his teacher, Miss Stretchberry. It transpires over the course of a full school year. Jack's responses reveal his growth as a writer and his love of his dog. He becomes very interested in Walter Dean Myers, another writer. This is a beautiful and inspiring tale.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Dr. Seuss

Title: *The Butter Battle Book*  
 Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers  
 ISBN 0-394-86580-4  
 Date: 1984  
 Genre: Picture book, Satire  
 Awards: New York Times Notable Book of the Year (1983),

This satirical book tells the story of the Yooks and the Zooks who disagree on how bread should be eaten: the Yooks eat it butter-side down and the Zooks eat it butter-side up. Over the years, their conflict worsens until total destruction becomes eminent. The story is a metaphor for Cold War mentalities that continue to pervade stereotypes and assumptions of today.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Donnelly, Jennifer

Title: *A Northern Light*  
 ISBN: 0152053107  
 Publisher: Harcourt, Inc.  
 Date: 2003  
 Genre: Historical Fiction  
 Awards: Carnegie Medal Winner, Printz Honor Book Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults by the ALA; Named a Best Book of 2003

Based on a true story, Donnelly weaves fact with fiction as we read this coming of age story about Mattie and the power of words. Historical fiction set in 1906, this novel explores life at the time and details the self-sacrifices made by many of the characters. Two plots are woven together; the first tells of murder, and the second, reveals Mattie and her desire to write.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## DuPrau, Jeanne

Title: *The City of Ember*

ISBN: 978-0375822742

Publisher: Yearling

Date: 2004

Genre: Science fiction

Awards:

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day with Doon. She wants to be a messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city while Doon wants to be an underground pipeworker to figure out how to mend the essential but failing generator. It isn't until Lina and Doon manage to decipher a mysterious letter and become the first people to leave the city in 241 years that they discover they have been living underground. This is the first Book of Ember - an exciting science fiction series. A movie of the same name was released in 2008.

Books of Ember website: <http://www.randomhouse.com/teens/booksofember/home.html>

Teacher's guide for City of Ember:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn'9780375822742&view'tg>

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Ellis, Deborah

Title: *Parvana's Journey*

ISBN: 0888995199

Publisher: Greenwood

Date: 2002

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards:

This is the second novel in *The Breadwinner* series. Shauzia is a fourteen year old girl living in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Disguised as a boy and begging for survival, Parvana and the

reader are taken on a compelling and eye opening journey through poverty and the harsh conditions that some people have to endure. This is a powerful and sincere story that young and old alike should enjoy.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Title: *Mud City*  
ISBN: 0888995423  
Publisher: Greenwood  
Date: 2003  
Genre: Realistic Fiction  
Awards:

This is the third novel in *The Breadwinner* series. Shauzia is a fourteen year old girl living in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Disguised as a boy and begging for survival, Parvana and the reader are taken on a compelling and eye opening journey through poverty and the harsh conditions that some people have to endure.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## **Ellis, Sarah**

Title: *Odd Man Out*  
ISBN: 0888997035  
Publisher: House of Anansi  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Realistic, Fiction  
Awards:

Kip is spending the summer with his grandmother and his eccentric female cousins while his mother is away with her new husband. His grandmother's house is going to be torn down so there are very relaxed rules. When Kip beats in a closet, he discovers a mysterious binder belonging to his deceased father. The binder contains bizarre information written from the perspective of an undercover agent. However, the truth about his father is revealed at the family talent night when Kip shares what he has discovered.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Fisher, Suzanne**

Title: *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*

ISBN: 0440238560

Publisher: Laurel Leaf

Date: 1989

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards:

The title character, Shabanu, is very strong willed and has been allowed many freedoms that are not traditionally permitted to Muslim girls. Her life of comparative independence is very much beloved until her regular routines are called into question when the marriage plans of her sister are abruptly altered.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Fleischman, Paul**

Title: *Seedfolks*

ISBN: 0064472078

Publisher: Harper Trophy

Date: 1997

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Newbery Medal

Written in vignettes through the voices of thirteen multiple characters from various backgrounds, this story is about developing a community garden in an urban American setting. The themes connect the seemingly disparate characters and celebrate their differences.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Funke, Cornelia**

Title: *Inkheart*

ISBN: 0439709105

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy

Awards:

*Inkheart* relates the magical story of Maggie's father who is able to bring characters from books to life when he reads aloud. Maggie is forced to face several of these evil characters in a series of adventures. Funke creates a plausible fantasy world populated by both real and otherworldly characters replete with vivid descriptions.

**Gardner, Graham**

Title: *Inventing Elliot*  
ISBN: 0-8037-2964-2  
Publisher: Dial Books  
Date: 2003  
Genre: Contemporary Realism  
Awards: Angus Book Award

At his school, fourteen-year old Elliot Sutton is picked on and beaten by bullies. At his new school, Holminister High, Elliot is determined to reinvent himself. A gang named The Guardians notice Elliot and want him as a member. Elliot has to decide how to use this new social power. This novel reveals much about the world of bullying.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Giff, Patricia Reilly**

Title: *A House of Tailors*  
ISBN: 10- 0440238005  
Publisher: Yearling  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Awards: Maine Student Book Master List

Dina Kirk leaves her family in Germany very suddenly to join her uncle in Brooklyn, New York. She has an amazing talent for sewing but she hates it with a passion. At age thirteen, she is forced to rely on her skills to earn a living in a foreign country. Throughout the course of the book, she realizes that she is a strong person capable of great heroism and compassion.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Gilley, Jeremy**

Title: *Peace One Day*  
ISBN 0-399-24330-5  
Publisher: GP Putnam And Sons  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Mixed media  
Awards:

This mixed media journal by Jeremy Gilley presents a chronological commentary on Jeremy's travels around the world while trying to get the attention of UN decision-makers. His goal was to establish one day of cease-fire around the world to celebrate peace; he succeeded and September 21 was named the UN International Day of Peace

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Gore, Al**

Title: *An Inconvenient Truth*  
ISBN: 0670062723  
Publisher: Dolphin  
Date: 2007  
Genre: Environmental science  
Awards:

This book shadows the academy award-winning (and Nobel Prize winning) documentary of the same name. This book is ideal as a companion resource, or as an introduction to the environmental issue of climate change. Rich photographs, maps and simple text make this timely message accessible for all.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Haworth-Attard,  
Barbara**

Title: *Home Child*  
ISBN: 0-00-639312-80  
Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.  
Date: 1996  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Awards: CLA Notable Book of the Year

Fourteen-year old Arthur has been sent from England to work as a Home Child in Canada. Sadie, the main character, cannot understand why her father treats him so harshly and why her mother merely ignores him. A strong friendship forms between these two characters and many strange discoveries shock Sadie's world.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

**Haddix, Margaret  
Peterson**

Title: *Among the Hidden*  
ISBN: 0689824750  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Date: 2000  
Genre: Futuristic  
Awards: ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers,  
ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults

Luke is living a secret life as one of the Shadow Children, third children who are forbidden to exist by the Population Police. He cannot leave his house for any reason and cannot have any friends. One day Luke meets a young neighbour and, through

her, learns of an underground network of Shadow Children. He is faced with a choice; to join the Shadow Children network and to risk everything, including his life, or to continue with his barren existence.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

## Henegan, James

Title: *torn away*

ISBN: 1-55143-263-3

Publisher: Orca Book Publishers

Date: 1994

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Mystery

Thirteen-year old Declan has been torn away from his native soil of Ireland after his mother, father, and sister have been killed on the streets of Belfast. He is forced to live in Canada with his uncle's family. He wishes to return to Ireland and seek revenge for his family's murderers, but the lure of his new friends, family, and surroundings cause him even more struggles with his choices in life.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Hinton, S.E.

Title: *The Outsiders*

ISBN: 0-14-038572-X

Publisher: Puffin Books

Date: 1967

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: ALA Best Young Adult Books, 1975

This is a story that transcends time and students rate it number one year after year. A teenage boy who belongs to a gang on the poorer end of town struggles with issues related to stereotyping, violence, school, families, and love. Rival gangs collide causing dramatic changes for all of the major characters. An amazing and memorable story, this is highly recommended for all young readers.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Holt, K. Willis**

Title: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*

ISBN: 0440229049

Publisher:

Date: 1998

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: National Book Award

Toby Wilson is dealing with the absence of his mother who has recently left when Zachary Beaver, “The World’s Fattest Boy”, comes to Antler, Texas as part of a traveling show. Toby befriends the lonely and unhappy Zachary and helps him to achieve his dream of being baptized. This relationship also helps Toby to learn to accept the things he cannot change.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Iggulden, Conn**

Title: *The Dangerous Book for Boys*

ISBN: 0007232748N

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2006

Genre: Non-fiction

Awards:

*The Dangerous Book for Boys* is the companion manual for *The Daring Book for Girls*. Wide ranging topics include Dog Tricks, Building a Treehouse, Juggling, Making Cloth Fireproof, and Sampling Shakespeare. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations in the text. Readers can dip in and dip out with ease. This text is designed for ease of reading entry and will appeal to boys.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Kadohata, Cynthia**

Title: *Kira-kira*

ISBN: 0689856407

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing

Date: 2006

Genre: Realistic

Awards: Newbery Medal

When Katie’s sister, Lynn, falls extremely ill, Katie must face the realities of living in a world of prejudice and poverty without the benefits of the beauty and glitter that Lynn provides through her wonderful outlook on life. Katie and her family have always relied

upon Lynn to express insight and understanding about the world. Now Katie has to continue the belief that there is always something shining...she just has to find it.

Recommended for: Upper Intermediate

## **Koja, Kathe**

Title: *Talk*

Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre / Fsg Kids

ISBN 0-374-37382-5

Date: 2005

Genre: Realistic

Awards:

When Kit lands the lead in a school play about homosexuality, he doesn't expect things to be so real. He has been struggling with his own sexuality and his best friend has been supporting him to come out. The dual narration of the plot emphasizes the expectations and assumptions people have about each other as well as the misconceptions people are guided by when they are not open to other possibilities.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate:

## **Konigsburg, E.L.**

Title: *Silent to the Bone*

ISBN: 0689867158

Publisher: Simon and Schuster

Date: 2004

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Teen's Choice Award

Branwell Zamborska is unable to speak. He hasn't spoken a word since Nikki, his baby half sister has gone into a coma and he is accused of being the one who hurt her. Connor, Branwell's best friend, attempts to uncover the reason for Branwell's silence and what has really transpired on Wednesday, November 25. This book is powerful, emotional and deals with complex and mature subjects.

Recommended Grade: Upper Intermediate

**Kuipers, Alice**

Title: *Life on the Refrigerator Door*  
Publisher: HarperCollins Canada, Limited  
ISBN: 13: 978-00613-70496  
Date: 2007  
Genre: Contemporary/Realistic  
Awards:

This novel is written in a unique style – a series of notes detailing the day-to-day life of a mother and daughter. Their main source of communication is leaving notes for each other, some only a few lines, on the refrigerator door. The reader is provided with an intimate perspective with which to engage the characters as the ordinary becomes extraordinary while exploring the value of family.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Lee, Dennis**

Title: *So Cool*  
Publisher: Key Porter Books  
ISBN: 1552637980  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Poetry  
Awards:

A collection of poetry that speaks directly to the male adolescent experiences of zits and bullies, maturing and the insecurity of being lonely. The collection of 36 poems runs a range almost as vast as the teenage emotional rollercoaster. Lee experiments with poetic form with wit and sensitivity. His poetry is accompanied by the rich illustrations of Maryann Kovalski.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

**Liao, Jimmy**

Title: *The Sound of Colors*  
Publisher: Little Brown and Company  
ISBN 0-316-93992-7  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Picture book  
Awards:

This story incorporates engaging and original illustrations which could only be imagined. A young blind girl travels through a subway system while attaching colours to the sounds she hears on

her journey. The extended metaphor for imagination and personal growth has links to curriculum outcomes for English Language Arts, Art and Health.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Major, Kevin

Title: *Blood Red Ochre*

Publisher: Seal Books

ISBN 0-770-42717-0

Date: 1996

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Historical Fiction/Fantasy

Awards: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Award, Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

The dual narration of this novel may be perceived by some students as confusing at first; however, the convergence of plots at the end is engaging and a genus for summative activities. The modern plot deals with David and his search for answers about the Beothuks while he works on a school project with Nancy, a mysterious transfer student. The historical plot deals with Daudooset, a Beothuk teenager who is struggling to help his family survive illness, starvation and the impending threats of the Whiteman.

*Recommended Grade:* 8 (links with Grade 8 Social Studies)

Title: *Eh! to Zed*

Publisher: Red Deer Press

ISBN 0-889-95222-1

Date: 2000

Genre: Verse/Picture Book

Awards:

This is a picture book that uses colourful illustrations to support rhyming words linked to Canadian culture and identity.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Matas, Carol

Title: *Greater Than Angels*  
 ISBN 0-590-51540-3  
 Publisher: Scholastic Canada  
 Date: 1998  
 Genre: Historical Fiction  
 Awards:

The powerful and emotional story of Anna Hirsch and her family who are captured by the Nazis in 1940 and sent to a refugee camp in France. It is an amazing story of the horrors of the Holocaust and the power of love to overcome many of the evils caused by war. It is full of suspense from beginning to end.

*Recommended Grade: 7*

## McNaughton, Janet

Title: *Catch Me Once, Catch Me Twice*  
 Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.  
 ISBN: 978-0773674493  
 Date: 1996  
 Genre: Realistic Fiction/Fantasy  
 Awards:

Set during the Second World War, Ev's father is sent overseas by the military. She and her mother are forced to move in with her grandparents in St. John's because Ev's mother is pregnant. In St. John's, Ev meets Peter with whom she goes to school. They spend time exploring the mysteries of the fairy world on Signal Hill and listening to stories told by Peter's grandmother. The main crisis occurs when Ev's father goes missing-in-action.

*Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate (with *Make or Break Spring* as a sequel option)*

Title: *The Secret Under My Skin*  
 Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.  
 ISBN 0-00648522-7  
 Date: 2001  
 Genre: Science Fiction  
 Awards: Ruth Schwartz Award (2001), Mr. Christie Award, Gold Seal, Ann Connor Brimer Award (2001), Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award

Set in 24<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland and Labrador, Blay Raintee is searching for answers about her past while trying to survive the

technocaust. The book can be seen as an eerie forecast of the future is the planet continues to be abused and neglected. A strong theme of environmental and social action pervades the entire story.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Meyer, Stephanie

Title: *Twilight*

ISBN: 0316015849

Publisher: Little Brown

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy, Romance, Horror

Awards:

Bella has just moved to the small town of Forks to live with her father and is fascinated by one of her fellow students, Edward. He is part of a family of five beautiful teenagers who do not mix with the other students at the school. Eventually, Bella and Edward become a couple, much against Edward's better judgement because Bella is in danger every minute they are together. Edward has a challenging time when he is with Bella because he is a vampire. Although he, along with his family, have decided to only live on animals, he is still at risk of losing control. The plot continues with conflicts between a rival set of vampires and werewolves. This is the first of a series; *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Mikaelsen, Ben

Title: *Petey*

ISBN: 0786813369

Publisher: Hyperion

Date: 2000

Genre: Realistic/Historical

Awards:

Trevor Ladd comes to the rescue of Petey, a disabled old man when school bullies are throwing snowballs at him. He is new in town and befriends Petey. Petey was born with cerebral palsy and finds it difficult to communicate. Trevor attempts to help Petey to find a long lost friend. It is by assisting Petey that Trevor learns a lot about himself. Based on a true story, this is a positive recounting about the power of the individual to make a difference in the lives of others.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Myracle, Lauren**

Title *TTYL*  
 ISBN: 0810987880  
 Publisher: Abrams  
 Date: 2004  
 Genre: Epistolary novel

Written completely in IM (instant messaging) text, *TTYL* (Talk To Ya Later) is an epistolary novel that explores the turbulent lives of three friends as they navigate the social challenges of tenth grade including school trouble, boy trouble, and driving lessons. The voices of the three female characters are given authenticity in a genre that will surely be embraced by students who have moved their mode of communication to a space where adults rarely dare to tread. This novel can be followed by the sequel, *TTFN* (Ta Ta For Now).

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Oppel, Kenneth**

Title: *Silverwing*  
 ISBN: 0006481795  
 Publisher: HarperCollins  
 Date: 1998  
 Genre: Fantasy  
 Awards: Mr. Christie's Book Award, CLA Book of the Year for Children Award

Shade, a young and small bat, is blown off course when migrating south for the winter. He has to depend upon his own resourcefulness to return to his family. This animal fantasy has broad appeal to both boys and girls.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

**Park, Linda Sue**

Title: *A Single Shard*  
 ISBN: 0440418518  
 Publisher: Calerion Books  
 Date: 2003  
 Genre: Historical Fiction  
 Awards: Newbery Medal

Set in 12<sup>th</sup> Century Korea, the homeless, Tree-ear is taken in by a kind and ethical disabled master in a village of potters. When Tree-ear breaks a piece of pottery created by Min, the best potter in the village, Tree-ear is forced to work off his debt. The protagonist confronts a dilemma after the Emperor commissions pottery from Min who has developed a new inlay design. While

taking his master's pottery to the Emperor, Tree-ear breaks it – and is left with only a single shard to demonstrate what this new technique can offer. The novel has a surprising ability to connect us to a time and place far from our own.

*Recommended:* Lower Intermediate

## Porter, Pamela

Title: *The Crazy Man*

ISBN: 0888996950

Publisher: Groundwood Books

Date: 2005

Genre: Historical Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Verse

Awards: 2005 Governor General's Literary Award, 2006 TD Book Award, 2006 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

Set in 1965 on a Saskatchewan farm, we learn how tragedy has struck the Emaline's family. Told in free verse, the reader comes to explore the values of loyalty and truth. Many prejudices evident in that era come forward. Though some hard realities are discussed, the story is quite uplifting.

Recommended Grade: Lower Intermediate

## Rennison, Louise

Title: *Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging*

ISBN: 0060521848

Publisher: HarperTeen

Date: 2003

Genre: Contemporary, comedy

Awards:

This mature fast-paced, humor-packed novel in diary form will have students lining up to read it when they hear the out-loud laughter coming from their classmates. Georgia is Every Girl – to the extreme. Convinced that hers is the dullest life around, this teenager self-obsesses about her looks and boys while her parents are a little strange, and her younger sister embarrasses her to no end. Although completely inexperienced with boys – she is determined to change that, if she can only figure out what to do.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Rowlings, J.K.**

Title: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

ISBN: 043935806

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

Awards:

**Titles in Series:**

(Elementary Annotated Bibliography)

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

(Intermediate Annotated Bibliography)

*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* begins the remarkable series that introduces us to Hogwarts, a school of wizardry and secrets. Harry is a famous young wizard who takes on the fearsome Dark Lord Voldemort, the murderer of Harry's parents. He must contend with the world of the Muggles (the world of ordinary people) in between terms at Hogwarts where Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, regularly battle the forces of evil. This series introduces readers to a wide variety of characters as Harry progresses through his formal schooling to become a fully accredited wizard and as he attempts to vanquish his arch enemy, Voldemort. The series concludes when Harry completes his time at Hogwarts and challenges Voldemort for the last time in *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallow*.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Said, S.F.**

Title: *Varjak Paw*

ISBN: 0440420768

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

Date: 2003

Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Awards:

Varjak Paw is a cat that belongs to a special breed, the Mesopotamia Blue. When the owner of the house dies, Varjak

Paw ventures to the dangerous world outside of his sheltered life. While there, he learns a martial art that has been passed down through the generations.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## **Smith, David J.**

Title: *If the World Were a Village*

ISBN 1-55074-779-7

Publisher: Kids Can Press, Ltd.

Date: 2002

Genre: Informational

Awards: International Reading Association Children's Book Award (2003)

This informative text presents global issues in a "village" setting – 100 people instead of 6 billion. The realistic and manageable population size really challenges students to consider inequities in the world and to pose questions and solutions. Includes a companion website at <http://www.mapping.com/village.html>.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## **Stratton, Allan**

Title: *Chanda's Secrets*

ISBN: 1550378341

Publisher: Annick Press

Date: 2004

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards:

Chanda, aged 16, lives in the impoverished world of sub-Saharan Africa; a world filled with heartache. Her father died and there has been a series of stepfathers; all of whom are abusive and/or neglectful. Although AIDS is common, it is not a topic that is socially acceptable for discussion. Her third stepfather dies from AIDS and her mother is in the process of dying from AIDS. Despite the desperation and the stigma associated with the illness, Chanda's courage and intelligence help her to face the death of her mother. This is a dark book with very moving social commentary on the appalling treatment of individuals living with AIDS. *Chanda's Wars*, the sequel, was published in February 2008.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Thompson, Kate**

Title: *The New Policeman*

ISBN: 9780061174278

Publisher: The Bodley Head

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Awards: Whitbread Children's Book Award

J.J. Liddy is part of a family of musicians. Time seems to be slipping away faster and faster in the community of Kinvara to the point where there is not enough time to enjoy life's simple pleasures. As a result, J. J.'s mother asks him to find more time as a birthday gift. This journey takes the reader to a magical land called Tír na n'Óg, the land of eternal youth where J.J. must solve the riddle of evaporating time.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Van Draanen,  
Wendelin**

Title: *Flipped*

ISBN: 0-375-81174-5

Publisher: Alfred A. Knoff

Date: 2001

Genre: Realistic

Awards:

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. Juli Baker loves her sycamore tree and the eggs she collects daily. She also loves Bryce Loski. However, Bryce definitely does not reciprocate Juli's feelings; he is convinced that she is weird and strange. Things change though once the two have a confrontation. Juli's passionate beliefs, once the cause of Bryce's dislike, now begin to endear her to him. Bryce's lack of support of Juli's crusades causes negative feelings in Juli towards Bryce, and she begins to think that he is not as interesting as she had originally thought him to be. Will they be able to resolve their differences?

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

**Weeks, Sarah**

Title: *So B. It*  
ISBN: 0064410471  
Publisher: Harper Trophy  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction  
Awards: Parents' Choice Gold Award

Heidi is the daughter of a mentally disabled mother. She lives with her mom and a neighbor, Bernadette. She doesn't know when her birthday is or even who is her father. Everything about her past is a mystery. Heidi's mom has a limited vocabulary. A favorite word is "soof". One day, curiosity gets the better of Heidi and she embarks on a journey to discover her past. What she discovers will not only change the way she lives, but forever changes how she views life.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Whelan, Gloria**

Title: *Homeless Bird*  
ISBN: 0439296919  
Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers  
Date: 2000  
Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction  
Awards: National Book Award, ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, ALA Notable Children's Book, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Booklist Editors' Choice

Koly is a thirteen-year-old girl from a rural village in India. Her parents arrange a marriage to a young man from another village. The family doesn't realize Koly is to marry a dying boy and was basically sold for her dowry. According to custom, a widow can never return home without bringing shame to her family. As a result, Koly is destined to a life of poverty. Can she escape? This novel was inspired by a newspaper article about the real thirteen-year-old widows in India today.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

**Wilson, Janet**

Title: *Imagine That!*

ISBN: 0773732217

Publisher: Fitzhenry and Whiteside

Date: 2000

Genre: Picture Books

Awards:

On her hundredth birthday, Auntie Violet reminisces with her great grandniece, Elizabeth, about all of the changes that have taken place over her lifetime in the twentieth century. She shares brief anecdotes about her own girlhood. The pages contain beautiful illustrations of historical personages and reflect the text. Colour coded sidebars containing factual information line both sides of the book. Wide ranging topics include inventions, fashion, history, and medicine to entertainment, toys, food, and transportation. This is a fabulous resource to spark research and class discussions.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

