



Open a Book- Open the World Books for Grades 5-8

I Want/ Read



Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover* 2014 256 pgs Age 10-14 Using imagery and verse, the author shares the experiences of 13 year old twin brothers who share a passion for basketball and a love of family. Josh and Jordan learn that breaking the rules can have lasting results. The climax will change their family forever. This is an excellent read for middle-school age boys. (Ch/GN, Sp, NM, L750)



Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan* 2012 336 pgs Age 10-13 Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan the gorilla has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle, preferring to draw. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he needs all of his artistic skill to free her. (Ch, NM, L570)



Armstrong, William H. *Sounder* 1970 128 pgs Age 10-14 A heart-wrenching story of Sounder, a great coon dog, his black master, and a young boy who must deal with fear, anger, and grief. An unforgettable read. Some violence and death. (Ch, NM, L900)



Avi. *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* 1990 240 pgs Age 10-14 13-year-old Charlotte Doyle is excited to return home from school in England to her family in Rhode Island in the summer of 1832. But when the two families she was supposed to travel with mysteriously cancel their trips, Charlotte finds herself the lone passenger on a long sea voyage with a cruel captain and a mutinous crew. She is even put on trial for murder. Vivid narration of early sailor life. (Ch, NH, L740)



Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting* 1975 180 pgs Age 10-14 10- year old Winnie Foster is befriended by a family with a secret, one that lies in a spring with water that gives eternal life. When the Tuck family is in danger of being exposed, Winnie must choose between her own family and this special family that she has come to love. Immortality, death, and secrets make for excellent conversation with your child. (Ch, L770)



Bishop, Claire Huchet; William Pene du Bois (illustrator). *Twenty and Ten* 1952 80 pgs Age 10-13 During the German occupation of France, twenty French children were brought to a refuge in the mountains. When a man comes asking them to take in and hide ten Jewish children, they agree. A poignant look at history from a child's perspective. (Ch; L630)



Blos, Joan. *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal 1830-1832* 1979 144 pgs Age 10-13 A poignant sharing of life in the 1830s through the eyes of 14-yr-old Catherine Hill. Catherine's journal, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town, her father's remarriage, and the death of her best friend. (Ch; NM; L960)



Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw* 1983 160 pgs Age 10-13 When his parents separate, 6th-grader Leigh Botts moves to a new town with his mother. Struggling to make friends and deal with his anger toward his absent father, Leigh loses himself in a class assignment in which he must write to his favorite author. When Mr. Henshaw responds, the two form an unexpected friendship that will change Leigh's life forever. (Ch; NM; L910)



____ Collier, James Lincoln and Christopher Collier. *My Brother Sam is Dead* 1974 240 pgs Age 10-14
Tim Meeker has always looked up to his brother Sam. Sam has joined those who are rebelling against England, but his father is a British supporter. War is raging and Tim knows he'll have to make a choice -between sides of the war and between his brother and his father. *contains some cursing common with the times (Ch, NH, L770)



____ Craft, Jerry. *New Kid* 2019 256 pgs Age 10-13 7th grader Jordan Banks is starting a new prestigious school, when what he really wants is to attend art school. This graphic novel follows Jordan as he learns it is not easy to fit in when you don't look like everyone else. Can Jordan stay true to who he really is while making new friends? An honest look at stereotypes and diversity in the awkward world of middle school. (GN, NM, L320)



____ Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons* 1994 288 pgs Age 10-13 13-year-old Sal travels from Ohio to Idaho with her eccentric grandparents to try to find her mother. Along the way, she tells them An imaginary story about Phoebe, a girl who received mysterious messages, who met a "potential lunatic," and whose mother disappeared. As Sal entertains her grandparents, her own story begins to unfold—the story of a girl whose only wish is to be reunited with her missing mother. (Ch; NM; L770)



____ Curtis, Christopher Paul *Bud, Not Buddy* 1999 288 pgs Age 10-14 It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, but orphaned ten-year-old Bud is on a search for the father he's never known. He has all he needs in his suitcase, including a concert poster of Herman E. Calloway, and there is absolutely nothing that can stop him. (Ch, NM, L950)



____, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham- 1963* 1995 224 pgs Age 10-13 When the Watson family (aka the Weird Watsons) sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. Funny, tragic, and human all at the same time. Don't let some mild language prevent you and your child from reading this reminder of the past. (Ch; NH; L920)



____ DeStefano, Lauren. *The Girl with the Ghost Machine* 2017 240 pgs Age 10-14 When Emmaline Beaumont's father started building the ghost machine, she didn't expect it to bring her mother back from the dead. He becomes obsessed with the machine, virtually ignoring Emmy and everything else. Now she must find a way to either make the machine work or destroy it. Moving story of loss and friendship. (Ch, L740)



____ Eggers, Dave. *The Eyes & the Impossible* 2023 256 pgs Age 10-14 Johannes, a free dog, lives in an urban park by the sea. His job is to see everything that happens within the park and report back to the park's elders, three ancient Bison. When signs of change, along with a boatload of goats threaten to upset the equilibrium of the park, Johannes and his friends embark on a quest to free the bison. A moving and inspiring tale. (Ch, NM, L790)



____ Freeman, Megan E. *Away* 2025 480 pgs Age 10-14 When families across Colorado are forced to leave their homes due to an unnamed danger, a diverse group of kids find themselves in the same evacuation camp. They grow suspicious about the "threat" and begin investigating. Is the danger real or does someone have an agenda? This is a companion to the best-selling book, *Alone*. (Ch, L not available)



____ George, Jean Craig. *Julie of the Wolves* 1972 224 pgs Age 10-14 A story of a young girl lost on the Alaskan tundra and how she survives with the help of a pack of wolves. Inspiring and heart-breaking at the same time! (Ch, NM, L860)



____, *My Side of the Mountain* 1959 192 pgs Age 10-14 Young Sam Gibley leaves home, determined to live alone in the Catskills. Along the way, he befriends a falcon and a weasel while developing courage and survival skills. For animal and nature lovers! (Ch, NH, L810)



** Haddix, Margaret Peterson; Cliff Nielson (illustrator). *Among the Hidden* 2000 160 pgs age 10-13 Twelve-year-old Luke has lived his entire life in isolation on his family's farm. He has never been to school or had a friend. He is one of the shadow children- the third child in a society where the law limits families to only two children. One day, Luke sees a girl's face in the window of a house where he knows two other children live. Jen is also a third child who is willing to risk coming out of the shadows. Does Luke dare to go along with her dangerous plan? The first book in the Shadow Children series. (Ch, S, L800)



Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy* 2005 319 pgs age 10-14 When the king determines that his son must choose his bride from an obscure mountain village, 14 year old Miri and the other young girls who live there are sent to a strict academy where they learn necessary skills to be chosen as princess. Miri discovers a special talent that eventually helps her save her friends from danger. The first book in the series. (Ch, S, NH, L890)



**Hargrave, Kiran Millwood; Tom de Freston (illustrator). *Julia and the Shark* 2021 224 pgs Ages 10-18 Ten-year-old Julia loves the mysteries of the ocean and marine biology, just like her scientist mother. Her family is spending the summer on a remote island where her mom is searching for the elusive Greenland shark, a creature that might be older than the trees, and so rare that it's only been seen a few times. As weeks go by without locating the shark, her mother's mental state begins to deteriorate. Determined to prove that the shark is real, Julia sets off on a quest to find it herself. Difficult topics of bullying and mental illness (bipolar disorder) are presented with dignity and empathy. Powerful illustrations in black, white, and yellow add to the beautiful, haunting mysteries of the sea. (Ch, L730)



** Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Shouting at the Rain* 2020 288 pgs ages 10-13 Delsie McHill has lived with her grandmother on Cape Cod since her mother abandoned her as a baby. She loves weather-watching and looks forward each summer to reuniting with her childhood friend, Brandy. But this year, Brandy has chosen other friends, leaving Delsie behind. She forms a new friendship with Ronan, who is dealing with his own set of challenges. As Delsie and Ronan spend the summer exploring the island, they learn how to weather life's storms together. (Ch, Sp, L560)



Jacques, Brian; Gary Chalk (illustrator). *Redwall* 1986 352 pgs Age 10-13 Redwall Abbey is home to gentle, peace-loving mice. But Cluny the Scourge, an evil, one-eyed rat has his sights set on taking over the abbey. Can young Matthias find the sword that legend says will save them? First book in the Redwall series (Ch; S; L800)



**Jamieson, Victoria and Omar Mahamed. *When Stars are Scattered* 2020 264 pages Age 9-13 Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard, food is limited, and the medical care Hassan needs is not available. When Omar is presented with an opportunity to attend school, he must choose between his responsibility to care for his brother and his desire for an education. This remarkable graphic novel tells the true story of Omar Mohamed, the former Somali refugee who found his way to America. While the subject is difficult, the story resounds with family, community, optimism, and hope. (GN, Bio, L530)



Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth* 1961 242 pg Age 10-13 Milo is bored with everything. When a tollbooth mysteriously appears in his room, he drives through only because he's got nothing better to do. But on the other side, he learns that life can be exciting. The word-play in this book is unique and is perfect for reading-aloud. (Ch, L1000)



Kelly, Erin Entrada. *The First State of Being* 2024 272 pgs Age 10-13 Twelve-year-old Michael has

his hands full worrying about the neighborhood bully, a crush on his babysitter, and the upcoming Y2K crisis. Then he meets a boy from a different time and things become even more complicated. For the best part, don't stop until the very last page! (Ch, NM, L not avail)



L'Engle, Madeline. *A Wrinkle in Time* 1962 216 pgs Age 10-14 Late one night, three otherworldly creatures appear and sweep Meg Murry, her brother Charles Wallace, and their friend Calvin O'Keefe away on a mission to save Mr. Murry, who has gone missing while doing top-secret work for the government. The classic fantasy! (Ch, NM, L720)



Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (Chronicles of Narnia series Bk 2)* 1950 224 pgs Age 10-14 Four siblings step through a mysterious wardrobe and into the magical Narnia, a once-peaceful land now frozen in snow and stone by the evil White Witch. Only Aslan, the Great Lion, can end the White Witch's tyranny and restore peace. (Ch, S, Sp, L940)



Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars* 1989 160 pgs Age 10-14 As German troops seek out Danish Jews during WWII, 10-year-old Annemarie and her family risk their own lives to help their Jewish friends escape. A poignant portrayal of courage and friendship. (Ch, NM, L670)



Luqman-Dawson, Amina. *Freewater* 2022 416 pgs Age 10-14 While attempting to escape slavery, a mother is caught but her two children manage to get away. Wandering through the swamp, they are "rescued" by a community of former slaves who have a secret life deep in the swamp. But Homer never stops planning to return to Southerland Plantation to rescue his mother. Deeply inspiring and loosely based on the history of maroon communities in the South, this is a book you will not soon forget. (Ch, NM, L690)



Naylor, Phyllis Reynold. *Shiloh* 1991 144 pgs Age 10-12 When Marty Preston comes across a young beagle in the hills behind his home, it's love at first sight. The only problem is that the dog, who Marty names Shiloh, belongs to a man who abuses his animals. Marty is determined to keep Shiloh safe. How can he take care of Shiloh without his family and the dog's owner finding out? (Ch; NM; L890)



O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins* 1960 177 pgs Age 10-14 Off the coast of California is a harsh rock known as the Island of San Nicholas. In the 1800's, a young Indian girl, Karana, was stranded there for 18 years. This is her story of courage and survival. (Ch, NM, L1000)



Park, Barbara. *Mick Harte was Here* 1995 128 pg Age 10-14 Phoebe's brother, Mick was the coolest kid. But when he dies from a head injury, Phoebe and her family must learn how to continue living without him. Emotional, humorous, and totally authentic. (Ch, L730)



Park, Linda Sue. *A Long Walk to Water* 2010 128 pgs Age 10-14 Told in alternating sections is the story of two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, must walk hours daily to get water for her family. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Their lives ultimately connect in an amazing way. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who founded the charity Water for South Sudan. (Ch, Sp, L720)



Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet* 1987 192 pgs Age 10-14 Brian Robeson is flying to visit his father when the pilot suffers a heart attack. The plane goes down in a deserted area of the Canadian wilderness. Brian must handle the challenges of finding food, avoiding bugs and other animals, and loneliness to survive 54 days alone. (Ch, NH, L1020)



_____, *The River* 1991 176 pgs Age 10-14 Two years after Brian Robeson survived fifty-four days alone in the Canadian wilderness, the government wants him to go back so they can learn what he did to stay alive. But when the psychologist who is documenting everything is struck by lightning, Brian must find a way to get both of them to safety. Follow up to *Hatchet*. (Ch, L960)



____ Peck, Richard. *Here Lies the Librarian* 2006 160 pgs Age 10-14 A quirky story about siblings, cars, neighbors with a grudge, and a young librarian with the desire to stir things up in Hazelrigg. (Ch, L780)



____, *A Long Way from Chicago* 1997 176 pgs Age 10-14 A brother and sister spend summers with their eccentric grandmother. During these weeks, they see their first corpse, catch the sheriff in his underwear, and help their grandmother trespass. (Ch, NH, L750)



____ Reynolds, Jason. *Ghost* 2016 208 pgs Age 10-14 Castle (aka "Ghost") Cranshaw has spent his life running from his past, including an abusive father. When he catches the attention of the track coach, can Ghost put his past behind him and make a new future? (Ch, Sp, L730)



____ Robinson, Barbara. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* 1972 128 pgs Age 10-14 The annual Christmas play will never be the same when the Herdman children are cast as leads. Their unique perspective of the events surrounding Jesus' birth reminds us all of what Christmas is really about. Fast-moving and funny. Makes a great read-aloud. (Ch; L930)



____ Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* 1997 Age 10-13 320 pgs Harry's life is miserable. He lives with his horrible aunt, uncle, and cousin, Dudley. But things change when he receives an invitation to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There he finds friends, sports, magic, and adventure. First book of the best-selling series. (Ch, S, L880)



____ Sachar, Louis. *Holes* 1998 288 pgs Age 10-14 Stanley Yelnats has been found guilty of a crime he didn't commit and is sent to a boy's detention center, Camp Green Lake. There, he and the other boys must dig holes five feet wide and five feet deep every day. But there seems to be another reason the warden wants the holes dug. (Ch, NM, L660)



____ Schindler, Holly. *The Junction of Sunshine and Lucky* 2014 232 pgs Age 10-13 Auggie lives with her grandpa, who works as a trash hauler, in Serendipity Place. When new members of the House Beautification Committee find the homes in their neighborhood as "against code", Auggie discovers a hidden talent that just might save the community. (Ch, L930)



____ Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars* 2007 288 pgs Age 10-14 Seventh grader Holling Hoodhood isn't happy. He is sure his new teacher, Mrs. Baker, hates him. On Wednesdays, when other students are excused for religious training, Holling must stay with Mrs. Baker, who introduces him to Shakespeare and offers tips on cross-country running. In the process, Holling learns to appreciate his family and friends. Each chapter presents a month during this difficult school year. (Ch, NH, Sp, L990)



____ Selden, George; Garth Williams (illustrator). *The Cricket in Times Square* 1960 160 pgs Age 10-12 When Chester the cricket arrives in New York's Times Square, he is adopted by Mario, whose family runs a newsstands. He makes friends with a mouse and a cat, and the three use Chester's musical skills to bring success to the newsstand. (Ch; NH; L780)



____ Snicket, Lemony Snicket. Brett Helquist (illustrator). *A Series of Unfortunate Events: The Bad Beginning Bk 1* 1999 176 pgs Age 10-13 Violet, Krauss, and Sunny Baudelaire suddenly become homeless orphans when their parents die in a fire that destroys their home. This is the first "unfortunate event" that the siblings will experience. But don't think the book will be sad- it won't! (Ch, S, L1010)



____ Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *The Egypt Game* 1967 240 pgs Age 10-14 Two very different girls become friends, sharing a common interest in everything Egyptian. When they turn an abandoned area into a place to put their imaginations to work, strange things begin to happen. (Ch, NH, L1010)



____ Soontornvat, Christina, *The Last Mapmaker* 2022 368 pgs Age 10-14 Twelve-year-old Sai plays the

part of a well-bred young lady, but her father is a conman. She has been hired as an assistant to the famous mapmaker, Paiyoon, and accepts an opportunity to join an expedition to chart new lands. The journey proves dangerous and Sai must decide between her past and her dreams. (Ch, NH, L740)



Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Sign of the Beaver* 1983 144 pgs Age 10-14 When Matt is left alone to guard his home and land, he struggles to survive until becoming acquainted with Attean, a member of the Beaver clan. The two form a mutual respect and eventually, a friendship. (Ch, NH, L770)



_____. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* 1958 249 pgs Age 10-14 Set in Puritan colonial America, 16-year-old Kit befriends a lonely woman who has been accused by the townspeople of being a witch. Will Kit be found guilty by association? Don't let the title keep you from reading this quality book. (Ch, NM, L850)



Sperry, Armstrong. *Call It Courage* 1940 138 pgs Age 10-12 Mafatu is terrified of the sea that took his mother's life when he was a baby. He is a disappointment to his father and is ridiculed by his friends. So Mafatu sets out to prove to himself and others that he can conquer his fear. This legend is still told by the people of Hikueru. (Ch; NM; L830)



Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me* 2009 240 pgs Age 10-14 Sixth-grader Miranda is in the middle of difficult friendships when mysterious notes begin showing up, saying that she must write a letter that may save someone's life- and she can't tell anyone. Prior reading of Madeline L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* will help better understand dialogue and concepts presented in the book. (Ch, NM, L750)



Timberlake, Amy. *One Came Home* 2013 272 pgs Age 10-14 Georgie Burkhardt's sister, Agatha, leaves town with strangers. Later, a body wearing Agatha's dress is found dead. But Georgie cannot accept her sister's death and is determined to find her and solve the mystery. A story of determination and sisterly love. (Ch, NH, L690)



Wolk, Lauren. *Wolf Hollow* 2016 320 pgs Age 10-14 Annabelle has lived a quiet life in Wolf Hollow; that is until Betty Glengarry arrives. Betty is a bully and sets out to manipulate her classmates. When World War I veteran Toby becomes her target, Annabelle must show courage to stand up for him. Deeply touching characters. (Ch, NH, L800)

Bio- Biography, Ch- Chapter Book, GN- Graphic Novel, L- Lexile, NH- Newberry Honor, NM- Newberry Medal, PB- Picture Book, S- Series, Sp- Spanish

**** Denotes recently added books**