

CORWIN-RUSSELL SCHOOL
@ BROCCOLI HALL
ANYTIME READING

LIST A

(After you have read the majority
of these books, go on to List B or List C)

FICTION - FAMILY AND FRIENDS

YOLANDA'S GENIUS

Fenner, Carol

After moving from Chicago to Grand River, Michigan, fifth grader, Yolanda Blue, street wise, smart and big for her age, determines to prove that her brother, Andrew, is not a slow learner, but a true musical genius. (Newbery Honor book)

TCHAIKOVSKY DISCOVERS AMERICA

Kalman, Esther

A biographical vignette of the visit of Tchaikovsky to America in 1891 through the diary of eleven-year-old Jenny Petroff, a Russian immigrant. The brief text and dramatic illustrations give the reader a taste of the cultured Russian immigrant community of New York in the early 20th century and hints at the nature of this musical genius.

THE LEDGER BOOK OF THOMAS BLUE EAGLE

Matthoei, Gray

Inspired by the ledger books done by the plains Indians in the 1800's, this ledger book contains a neatly penned narrative of the tribe, and his experiences at the Carlisle Indian School, where many young Native Americans were schooled. The drawings are colorful, simple, energetic and direct.

THE PUSHCART WAR

Merrill, Jean

The humorous story about mammoth trucks that threaten to crowd people, cars, and pushcarts off the new streets of New York City.

THE FEAR PLACE

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

When he and his older brother are left camping alone in the Rocky Mountains, twelve year old Doug must face his fear of heights to find his brother before it is too late. A lot of suspense and a great read.

BEETHOVEN LIVES UPSTAIRS

Nichol, Barbara

This book weaves true incident of the composer's eccentric life into a fictional correspondence between Christoph and his uncle.

THE SHADOW CHILDREN

Schnur, Steven

While spending the summer on his grandfather's farm in the French countryside, eleven-year old Etienne discovers a secret dating back to World War II and encounters the ghosts of Jewish children who suffered a dreadful fate under the Nazis.

THE FORGOTTEN DOOR

Key, Alexander

A boy falls through a door to earth where he finds he can communicate telepathically with animals. However, he is hunted and misunderstood. A great story that predates E.T. and is far superior.

CALL IT COURAGE

Sperry, Armstrong

An early Newbery winner about the south sea islander, Mafatu, and how he survives a seemingly endless journey in a dugout canoe and, in the process, learns to live in himself and his ancestors, and conquers his fear of the sea.

CLASSICS - TOO GOD TO MISS

THE SECRET GARDEN

Burnett, Frances

A moving story of a lonely, willful girl who discovers a mysterious garden and befriends a strange, invalid boy.

THE TWENTY-ONE BALLOONS

DuBois, William Pene

Professor William Sherman leaves San Francisco on August 15, 1883 in a balloon and ends up three weeks later clinging to the remains of a twenty balloon aircraft in the Atlantic Ocean. The retelling of his journey is nonsensical and fantastic. (Newbery Medal)

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON

Grahame, Kenneth

A folk tale about Boy, Saint George, and a dragon who just won't fight.

THE YEARLING

Rawlings, Marjorie

The sensitive story of a boy, his pet deer, and their life in the Florida wilderness in the 1870's.

KIDNAPPED

Stevenson, R. L.

David Balfour is an orphan. His uncle, Ebenezer Balfour, cheats him out of his rightful inheritance and schemes to have him kidnapped and sold into slavery. His uncle's plans, however, are foiled and David's high adventure in the highlands of Scotland begin.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

White, E. B.

The tender story of Wilbur, the pig, and his friendship with Charlotte, the spider, who could not only talk, but write as well.

ANIMALS - REAL & IMAGINARY

SOUNDER

Armstrong, William H.

Fate pursues both the coon dog, Sounder, and his master, a poor black sharecropper, driven to steal for his hungry wife and children. (Newbery Medal)

THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

Burnford, Sheila

An English bull terrier, a yellow Labrador Retriever, and a feisty Siamese cat tackle the harsh Canadian wilderness on their 250 mile journey home.

STONE FOX

Gardiner, John

Ten year old Willy hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse room the National Dog Sled Race. But can one boy and one dog be a match for the unbeatable Stone Fox and his five beautiful sammoyeds? A fast paced, exciting read.

THERE'S AN OWL IN THE SHOWER

George, Jean Grayhead

Borden's father has lost his job due to the spotted owl's habitat in the old growth forest of Northern California. Borden sets out on a mission of revenge against the spotted owl and returns home instead with a half-starved owlet and finds that the conflict between nature and human industry is not an easy one.

ANIMALS - REAL & IMAGINARY (cont'd)

OLD YELLER

Fourteen-year-old Travis and his yellow dog, Old Yeller, prove to be a match for thieving raccoons, fighting bulls, grizzly bears, and mad wolves. (Newbery Honor)

BABE: THE GALLANT PIG

King-Smith, Dick

A humorous heartwarming story of Babe, Farmer Hoggert's invaluable pig. Babe learns to herd sheep and is distinguished as a champion "sheep-pig". A must reading for Charlotte's Web fans.

RASCAL

North, Sterling

When Sterling North was an eleven-year-old living in rural Wisconsin, his pet was a young raccoon named Rascal. This is a non-fiction account of their adventure together. (Newbery Honor).

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (series)

Adams, Douglas

Arthur Dent, mild mannered earthling, and Betelgeuse, travel guide researcher, are linked together when the earth explodes and they search the universe for Magrathea, a legendary planet where Earth Mark II has been commissioned. The characters that meet along the way are hilarious. A whimsical science fiction odyssey.

THE BOOK OF THREE

(all by Alexander, Lloyd)

THE BLACK CAULDRON (Newbery Honor)

THE CASTLE OF LLYR

TARAN WANDERER

THE HIGH KING (Newbery Award)

These five titles chronicle the mythical land of Pyrdain. Taran, an assistant pig keeper, fights against the evil and Black magic that threatens the kingdom.

THE ARKADIANS

Alexander, Lloyd

To escape the wrath of the King and his wicked Soothsayers, an honest man joins up with a poet-turned-jackass, and Joy-in-the-Dana, a girl with mystical powers. These are the Arkadians, a cast of remarkable Greek mythology.

THE BOGART

Cooper, Susan

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a Bogart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

THE DARK IS RISING SERIES:

(all by Cooper, Susan)

OVERSEW, UNDERTONE

THE DARK IS RISING (Newbery Honor)

GREENWICH

SILVER ON THE TREE

THE GREY KING (Newbery Honor)

The three Drew children begin their search for an ancient treasure linked to King Arthur. Folklore and legend intertwine with the plot to provide an intricate fantasy involving the good servants of light and the evil powers of dark.

THE REDWALL SERIES

(Jacques, Brian)

The author suggests that the books of this popular series be read in this order:

1 MARTING THE WARRIOR*

2 MOSSFLOWER

3 OUTCAST OF REDWALL

4 MARIEL OF REDWALL

5 THE BELL MAKER**

6 SALAMANDASTRON

7 REDWALL

8 MATTIMEO

* Captured and enslaved by the Corsair Stoat Badrang, young mouse warrior, Martin, vows to end the evil beast's plundering and killing. The first book of the Redwall series tells the tale of how the mouse warrior of Redwall gained his title and fame.

** Blending drama with excitement, Brian Jacques has yet another winner. Joseph, the bell maker, is visited in a dream one night by the legendary warrior of Redwall Martin. His daughter, Mariel, and her companion, Dandin, are in trouble. Joseph and his companions, four brave Redwallers, prepare to go to their aid. Crossing land and sea, news reaches them of a great evil abroad in the south under the name of Foxswolf, the Urban Nagru.

THE ARM OF THE STARFISH

L'Engle, Madeleine

Their adventures include alien creatures, forbidding planets, and evil dictator.

THE HOBBIT

Lord of the Rings: The Trilogy

Tolkein, JRR

HAROUIN AND THE SEA OF STORIES

Rushed, Salmon

Storyteller, Rushed Khalifa, the Ocean of Notions to his admirers, and the Shah of Blah to his rivals, loses his storytelling powers. Iff, the water genie, has disconnected Rachid's story tap. Only the Walrus at P2C2E House in Gup City, Kahani, can reconnect his supply. Harouin and Rushed begin their journey and adventure. A captivating, clever, adventure with inventive characters and an intriguing plot.

PASSAGER

An eight year old boy is abandoned in the woods of medieval England. A year passes; the becomes wild and uncultured. A falconer adopts and tames the youngster, and helps him rediscover his identity. The boy is Merlin, the greatest wizard of all time. Book I of the Young Merlin Trilogy.

MYSTERY

BLACK HEARTS IN BATTERSEA

(all by Aiken, Joan)

NIGHT BIRDS ON NANTUCKET

THE WOLVES OF WILLOUGHBY CHASE

If mysteries are your passion, try these mysteries featuring Dido Twite and Simon. Aiken always provides a weird twist to her plots.

THE HOUSE WITH A CLOCK IN ITS WALLS (or any of the Bellair's books)

A clock, programmed to destroy the world has been hidden in the walls of Uncle Jonathan's house by the evil sorcerer, Isaac Izard. Lewis, a ten-year-old orphan, Uncle Jonathan, and Mrs. Zimmerman, a witch and heir neighbor, search for the clock in hopes of finding it before it is too late.

FROM THE MIXED UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRAKWEILER Konisburg, E.L.

Eleven-year-old Claudia Kincaid, bored with life, runs away with her nine-year-old brother and hides out in New York City's Metropolitan Museum, where they find adventure and mystery.

ADVENTURE/SURVIVAL STORIES

THE ILLYRIAN ADVENTURE

(all by Alexander, Lloyd)

EL DORADO ADVENTURE

THE JEDERA ADVENTURE

THE PHILADELPHIAN ADVENTURE

Sixteen-year-old Vesper Hally, faces challenging dangers, performs impossible escapes, meets infamous villains as well as kings, sheiks, and even President Ulysses S. Grant in these four action packed titles.

BEYOND THE WESTERN SEA

Avi

Twists and turns, misfortune and luck, impoverished Irish immigrants, Maura, fifteen, and her brother, ten, meet runaway Lawrence Kurtle, eleven, their landlord's youngest son, fleeing his older brother's tyranny in 1850 Liverpool. All are bound for America on board the Robert Peel accompanied by a cast of memorable characters. The first book of a proposed trilogy, it is full of action and adventure.

LOST ON A MOUNTAIN IN MAINE

Fendler, Don

The true story of a young boy's fight for survival when he loses his way on Maine's Mount Katahdin.

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

George, Jean Craighead

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN (Sequel)

Sam Grubley runs away to the Catskills to land belonging to his grandfather. He tells of his year in the wilderness of the loneliness and his struggle to survive. The sequel continues when his peaceful existence is disrupted.

*HATCHET (Newbery MEDAL HONOR BOOK)

Paulsen, Gary

THE RIVER (Sequel)

* The exciting adventure of a boy who is the sole survivor of a plane crash in the Canadian wilderness. His only tool to aid his survival is a gift from his mother, a hatchet. Overcoming his parents' recent divorce is an additional struggle he needs to resolve.

FOLKLORE

BURY MY BONES, BUT KEEP MY WORDS

Fairman, Tony

A rich collection of traditional and contemporary African stories describing the people, the sights, sounds, and smells.

HER STORIES

Hamilton, Virginia

An illustrated collection of nineteen tales about African American females beautifully retold by acclaimed writer, Virginia Hamilton and award winning Caldecott winners, Leo and Diane Dillon.

THE LEGEND OF KING ARTHUR

Lister, Ron

A retelling of fourteen tales from the legend of King Arthur, beginning with the wizard Merlin and ending with the departure of Arthur to Avalon. This is a magnificently illustrated version of the timeless tale of Camelot.

DREAM TIME

Oodgeroo

Oodgeroo was given her name by the Nanukiel tribe. It means "paper bark" to represent the writing tools she used, the bark from the trees and the charcoal from dead fires, to write her stories about her Aboriginal heritage. Dream Time is a compilation of childhood stories of her life in Stradbooke, an island off the Queensland coast of Australia, and Aboriginal folklore, both traditional and contemporary. Aboriginal artist, Bronwyn Bancroft, boldly illustrates these stories in the Aboriginal style.

THE WAVE OF THE SEA WOLF

Wisniewski, David

Kchokeen, a Tlingit princess, is rescued from drowning by a guardian spirit that later enables her to summon a great wave and save her people from hostile strangers. Set in the Pacific Northwest, this dramatic, original story draws on Tlingit myth as well as recounts the Tlingit's first contacts with European adventurers. The spectacular cut paper illustrations are rich in traditional motifs.

POETRY

DON'T YOU TURN BACK

Hughes, Langston

Simple, eloquent statements about growing up black in America.

THE PLACE MY WORDS ARE LOOKING FOR:

WHAT POETS SAY ABOUT AND THROUGH THEIR WORKS Janeczko, Paul

Thirty-nine contemporary poets share their poetry as well as their thoughts, inspirations, anecdotes, and memories. Paul Fleischman, X.J. Kennedy, Cynthia Rylant, and Nancy Willard are just a few of the contributors.

CELEBRATING AMERICA: A COLLECTION OF POEMS AND IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT Whipple, Laura, ed.

This marvelous collection of poetry is eloquently paired with paintings and photographs from the Art Institute of Chicago.

BIOGRAPHY

OCTOBER 45 - CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF THE WAR Besson, Jean-Louis
Besson, a well-known European, illustrator, through words and images, describes the effect the Nazi occupation of France on the everyday life on his non-Jewish family.

MARK TWAIN: AMERICA'S HUMORIST DREAMER, PROPHET Cox, Clinton
Using primary sources, archival photographs and extensive quotes from Twain's books, personal journals, and letters, Cox uncovers an engaging portrait of Samuel Clemens, the river boat pilot, reporter, adventurer, and beloved writer and the times in which he lived.

LIVES OF WRITERS: COMEDIES, TRAGEDIES (AND WHAT THE NEIGHBORS THOUGHT) Krull, Kathleen
Biographical sketches of twenty famous literary figures. Krull provides the reader with basic biographical details and gossipy pieces of information weaving with Kathryn Kewitt's quirky illustrations. A companion piece to LIVES OF THE MUSICIANS.

SHADOW CATCHER: THE LIFE AND WORK OF EDWARD S. CURTIS Lawlor, Laurie
Photographer and ethnographer, Edward Curtis, spent his life studying Native Americans. This thorough biography depicts his dedication to this culture, but also comments on later-day criticism of his methods. His photographs are as eloquent as Laurie Lawlor's well written text.

CHAMPIONS Littlefield, Bill
A collection of ten sport profiles exploring athletes who have made extraordinary achievements and given something back to their sports. Satchel Page, Pele, Joan Benoit Samuelson, and Muhammad Ali are just some of the athletes profiled.

WINSTON CHURCHILL Severance, John
A portrait of Winston Churchill, one of the dramatic figures of the twentieth century, and the times in which he lived. Through Churchill's speeches, writings and photographs, Severance captures this important British statesman and the pivotal impact he had on his country and its allies during World War II.

NEW AND RECOMMENDED

THE EAR, THE EYE AND THE ARM

Farmer, Nancy

The Evils of the past, the technology of the future, criminals with plans far beyond what anyone can imagine - can the Matsika children escape from the heart of it all? A Newbery Honor book.

Also by Nancy Farmer, A GIRL NAMED DISASTER

THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY

Konisburg, E. L.

A tale about a team, a class, a school, and a series of contests, of an academic nature. This is also the story of the four team members and their coach.

THE WINDSINGER

Nicholson, William

Two young people escape from the caste system of Aramant to locate the key to a device in the City Center that will save their civilization. They face kind and alien foes in their journey to conquer the most sinister force of all: Morah. The first is an upcoming trilogy.

ENCHANTRESS FROM THE STARS

Engdahl, Sylvia

A cross between Tolkien and science fiction, a guest to the medieval planet, Andreica, to cope with "humanoid" populations who foolishly believe in magic and superstition, and the challenge posed by a force armed with advanced technology. Can the stowaway aboard the Anthropological Service vessel stop an invasion?

THE LAST YEARS OF MERLIN

Barron, T.A.

"Barron combines the wellsprings of mythical imagination with...deepest artistic powers. Through the ordeals, terrors and struggles of Merlin-to-be, we follow an intense adventure...". Lloyd Alexander 1st in a series.

THE BRIMSTONE JOURNALS

Koertge, Ron

Written before Columbine, this series of dark journal entries by members of the fictional class of 2000 creates "a suburban high school both familiar and terrifying". Note from Jane: Good, but GRIM. Not for under fourteen-year-olds.

ANGUS, THONGS AND FULL-FRONTAL SNOGGING

Rennison, Louise

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE I'M NOW THE GIRLFRIEND OF A SEX GOD

The confessions and further confessions of fourteen-year-old, Georgia Nicholson, laughing and groaning and awfulizing through her life are fabbity-fab-fab.

SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEENS

Covey, Sean

Step by step help for teenagers to improve self-image, buried friendships, resist peer pressure, and get along with their parents! And it is funny. It is not only a must read, it is a workbook - So buy it rather than borrow it.

HOLES

Sachar, Louis

Stanley is unjustly sent to a boy's detention center. Film at 11. Read it!

THE VIEW FROM SATURDAY

Konigsburg, E.L.

A tale about a team, a class, a school, and a series of contests, of an academic nature. This is also the story of the four team members and their coach.

NON-FICTION – SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

MANY THOUSAND GONE, AFRICAN AMERICANS Hamilton, Virginia
FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

MANY THOUSAND GONE recounts the origin of slavery in the United States and the Journey of the black slaves to freedom via the Underground railroad. This is an excellent and beautifully illustrated resource.

IMMIGRANTS

Sandler, Martin

The inspiring story of millions of people who between 1870 and 1920 crossed a wild and dangerous ocean in search of freedom and opportunity in America. Sandler's book documents their journey, their arrival, their struggles and triumphs, through vivid photographs and illustrations from the Library of Congress. (A Library of Congress book).

A WEEKEND WITH LEONARDO DA VINCI

Skira-Venturi

Rosabianca

The fifteenth-century artist, Leonardo da Vinci, talks about his life and work as if entertaining the reader for a weekend. A marvelous introduction to the artist, his life, his technique, and his masterpieces. Also, in the weekend with series: Degas, Picasso, Rembrandt, Renoir, Valazquez - all are equally informative.

CHILDREN OF THE DUST BOWL: THE TRUE
STORY OF THE SCHOOL AT WEED PATCH CAMP

Stanley, Jerry

A vivid account of the depression: The exodus of the migrant workers from the Dust Bowl, their desperate and dangerous journey to California, and the prejudice and poverty they encountered there.

I AM AN AMERICAN: A TRUE STORY OF
JAPANESE INTERNMENT

Stanley, Jerry

During WWII, the United States government authorized the evacuation and imprisonment of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. Stanley interprets these events as they affected one particular young man, Shiro Nomura, his family and close friends.

NON-FICTION

THE GREAT LIVE SERIES:

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Doris and Harold Faber

SPORTS

George Sullivan

INVENTION AND TECHNOLOGY

Milton Lomask

NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY

Doris and Harold Faber

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Short, interesting, informative chapters on some important events and the people who shaped them.

The Enchanted Castle, Edith Nesbit (1907)

This book was recommended by a student at the school I used to tutor at... I haven't actually read it, so here's what the jacket says: "*When Gerald, Jimmy, and Kathleen set out in search of adventure, they stumble upon a mysterious castle with a beautiful princess asleep in a garden. The princess is really just pretending to be royalty – but when she shows them a secret room filled with treasure where they discover a magical ring, enchantment becomes reality!*"

Tom's Midnight Garden, Philippa Pearce (1958)

Classic fantasy where boy hears clock chime 13 one night (he is, naturally, on holiday against his will in his relative's old dusty house) and finds a magic garden, where he meets a girl ghost companion. Mysterious situations ensue.

The Golden Goblet, Eloise Jarvis McGraw (1961)

Egyptian goldsmith-apprentice lad finds a golden goblet, and must prove his mean half-brother stole it from the City of the Dead so he is not charged with the crime. (I was thoroughly entertained despite the nagging sensation I was learning quite a bit about ancient Egypt.)

The Last Unicorn, Peter S. Beagle (1968)

Unicorn sets out to find the "truth" – is she really the last one? Aided by a "bumbling" magician and other royal and non-royal characters she meets on her way.

I Heard the Owl Call My Name, Margaret Craven (1973)

Young vicar journeys the Pacific Northwest in Victorian times and learns life lessons from the Native people he meets. Another entertaining history lesson in disguise.

Are All the Giants Dead?, Mary Norton* (1975)

This is particularly great fun; Shrek-ish view of classic fairy-tale characters as seen through the eyes of a young boy who prefers science fiction books – but of course, his child-care provider introduces him to the real characters in the books so he decides they're all right after all.

*Note: Mary Norton also wrote *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*, after which the Disney film was made, and the "Borrowers" series, which are all great (eg, *The Borrowers*, *The Borrowers Afield*, *The Borrowers Afloat*, *the Borrowers Aloft*)

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 ½, Sue Townsend (1982)

A young male teen's view of life in early '80s England... Includes description of the Royal Wedding, etc. Very funny.