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## An annotated bibliography for middle school students in a literature-base program and a determination of its usefulness for these students

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY  
FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS  
IN A LITERATURE-BASE PROGRAM  
AND A DETERMINATION OF ITS  
USEFULNESS FOR THESE STUDENTS

A RESEARCH PROJECT

Submitted to the Department of Education,  
University of Dayton, in Partical  
Fulfillment of the Requirement for  
the Degree of  
Master of Science in Education

by

Joanne Louise Coyle  
University of Dayton  
Dayton, Ohio  
December 1, 1994

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the advisor.

Signature of Advisor

## DEDICATION

I dedicate this research project to my three sons, Jim, Jeff, and John, and to two newcomers, my two grandsons, Andrew and Alexander. To my grand-daughter, Bonnie, I give a special recognition because of her love of books.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my thanks to Georgia Banziger for her willingness to share her time, her computer knowledge, and her Apple IIe computer with me, all of which made this project become a reality.

Secondly, I want to express my thanks to Dr. Gordon Anderson for continuing as my advisor even though he retired last June. His input and support will be appreciated in the years to come by this author.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose of the Study

Getting adolescents interested in reading is a continuing challenge for teachers in middle school. In 1977 Gentile and McMillan found students either had little interest in reading or they had rejected reading entirely. This was attributed to their feelings of being ridiculed about their reading by their teachers or peers. The remediation process never accomplished a change in their attitude toward reading. Many of these students looked at reading only as a school-related activity and therefore, it never was viewed as something that could be pleasurable.

Although the article by Gentile and McMillan was written over fifteen years ago, today's classrooms are filled with disinterested and unmotivated readers. This researcher concluded that she wanted to find a tool to use in her classroom that would promote an interest in reading.

The literature-base program seemed to be designed for students with marginal interests in reading. The first step was to clutter the classroom with a variety of books.

(Sancore, 1990, 1992; Frew, 1990; Clary, 1991; Fuhler, 1990). As a result this researcher's library grew rapidly

and the students began to respond enthusiastically. Her library included fiction, fantasy, science fiction, realistic fiction, suspense, biographies, and non-fiction. Numerous books from each genre were available for the student's use. They had a wide range of topics from which to choose. That gave them a better chance to find a book that they were especially interested in. Charolette Huck (1987) stressed,

If we want our children to become readers we must surround them with books of all kinds. We know that wide reading is directly related to accessibility and the more time for reading the more children will do. (p.641)

Once the books were accessible to the students, a time period in which to read was an integral part of the literature-base classroom. This was referred to as sustained silent reading and everyone participated, including the researcher. Sustained silent reading gave the students time to read the books they enjoy. Jim Trelease (1989) contended,

Reading is an accrued skill: The more you do it, the better you get at it; the better you get at it, the more you like it. (p.202)

The Commission on Reading in 1984 presented a report, "Becoming a Nation of Readers," that revealed middle school students spent about fifteen minutes a day reading. (Anderson, 1984) This report brought about an awareness among educators to implement more time for reading and literature-base classrooms supported this concept.



Another feature of the literature base program was that the student had opportunity to choose books they had found interesting. Ollman (1993) found in his study that students wanted to read books that they had a personal interest in. This choice gave the students the feeling that their decisions were valid. It gave them a sense of ownership in their own learning process.

The purpose essentially of the literature-base classroom was to get students motivated to read. Many students who did not have a familiarity with the different genres of novels needed a way to become acquainted with them. Reading a portion of the book by the teacher can arouse their interest so they will read it. (Huck, 1987) Read alouds (Trelease, 1989) advertise the pleasures of reading. Attractive displays of books motivate students' interests.

The intention of this researcher was to assist her middle school students to become familiar with a variety of books through using an annotated bibliography. This instrument was designed to give them an abbreviated look at what the books were about. This tool was also a means to introduce recently published titles. It was hoped that having the annotated bibliography at their finger tips along with the books in the classroom would encourage them to read a novel they might not have otherwise read. The accessibility of the annotated bibliography was presented in

a format that they could read at their own pace and with time allowed.

### The Problem Statement

The purpose of this study was twofold; to design an annotated bibliography of trade books for the middle school student in a literature-base classroom and to determine the opinions of these students as to its usefulness.

### Definitions of Terms

Trade Books. All books that were published for mass market are referred to as trade books. Fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, science fiction, and biography are among this classification.

Literature-Base Classroom. A classroom which supported the concepts that stressed a reading program that uses children and young adult literature.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

#### Types of Trade Books for Adolescents

Years ago trade books for young adults were very limited but in today's market the types of trade books that are available to this adolescent group are numerous.

One type of trade book is referred to as the junior or adolescent book. (Muller, 1975). The development of the junior novel over the past ten or twenty years has seen a change in subject matter, point of view, and character development. Literary devices such as interior monologue, flashbacks, and extended metaphors have brought sophistication to the junior trade book (Muller, 1975). The young teen can now read about what the character thinks when someone in the family is faced with a crisis or how the character feels when left out of the crowd. The reality of the situation in the story reflects the reality of the reader making the young adult trade book very popular.

Interior monologues are used by some authors such as Carolyn Cooney. In her novel, The Face on the Milk Carton, the heroine's feelings are clearly shown as she thinks of the growing evidence that she was kidnapped when she was

three years old. The possibility of the kidnappers being the people she has identified are her parents the home life beomes even more stressful. The protagonist, Janie, relates her story from the first person point of view which draws the reader into the character's inner most thoughts and allows for the reader a more intimate relationship with that character. Many junior novels frequently abandon the historical usage of third person omniscient to this first person point of view.

Another type of trade book for adolescents is the series books (Mackey,1990). More than fifty years ago the Bobsy Twins, Nancy Drew, and the Hardy Boys were popular characters found in series books. With each new episode that readers read the characters were the same but the situation changed. With the new series books their popularity has exploded. Over thirty different series are availble to the young adult and even to younger children. The Baby-sitters Club, Sweet Valley High, and Sunset Island,Star Trek, Freshman Dorm, and Nancy Drew Files are only a few of the series books that are now available to adolescents. They appeal to the young adult because of the real situations, the believability the characters, and the problems confronting those characters. An example of this is seen in the series, The Baby-sitters Club. A group of young girls form a club that offers babysitting services to their

community. The guidelines for membership as well as on-the-job-rules are discussed and formulated as a standard they all adhere to. Problems that arise in association with their jobs as well as the interactions among members and their friends make the series quite believable. Their conscientious decisions lead the club to experience success but not without hard work and determination. To attribute the acceptance and popularity of this series, Mackey (1990) states an insight of the author, Ann Martin.

There are not many shades of grey in these books; she offers the conventional wisdom of the American middle class ...Maybe such an exclusion of ambiguity offers security to the inexperienced reader(485).

A third type of adolescent novel is the predicable novel. These books are identified by how easily the reader can predict or guess the direction the story will take or what the outcome may be (Atwell,1985). Examples that Atwell lists included books dealing with growing up, peers, relationships with siblings, series books, and books that have come from another medium. The Nancy Drew series are predicable because the heroine, Nancy, gets a case, comes very close to death, overcomes adversaries, and ends up solving the mystery. Another example of a predictable book is a story that has been adapted from another medium such as Superman. Comic books, movies, and television have made the introduction of the character and the schemata for the reader is already in place. Star Trek, is another example

of a television series which now can be found in adolescent series books.

Non-fiction is a fourth type of adolescent book which can be used in the classroom to supplement content areas such as social studies (Moss, 1991). Textbooks suffer from dry presentations. The facts are there without the human interest element. The non-fiction books fills the gap by providing a human interest in the facts presented in the text. Non-fiction trade books can be used in other content areas like science, math, history, and health. Biographies of people in the related field provide the human interest that is lacking in the text book. Nonfiction trade books are visually more appealing, can individualize instruction, and the information is more current (Moss, 1991).

These four types of trade books that are available to the young adult demonstrate the variety in today's market and make it easier for even the most reluctant reader to find something of interest.

#### Factors that Influence Adolescents in Book Selection

One factor that influences adolescents in selecting a book is the summary found inside the cover flap or on the back of the book. (Gerlack & Cole, 1992). In their study conducted in a suburban middle school, the criteria mentioned most often was the summary on the cover flap.

Students wanted to know what the story was about more often than any other factor because they have specific interests.

Another factor that influences adolescents in the selection of books is the historical, social, and cultural characteristics of the individual reader (Vogel & Zancanella, 1991). The world outside of the classroom varies from one student to another but each student comes to the classroom with a world of print, pictures, and music inside their minds. Television, movies, newspapers, magazines, music lyrics, and neighborhood dramas are a part of their personal story worlds. A student who plays basketball will be more inclined to read about basketball. Another student such as Tina in Vogel & Zancanella's study wanted to read romances as a way to find out how the world is and how to act in it. Each student has their own personality and this personality helps guide the student to connect with what they read.

A third factor that influences adolescents in selecting a book is the student's option to choose what he/she reads (Ollmann, 1993). Middle school students need to practice making choices. If they never are given this opportunity within the classroom, the discovery of likes and dislikes cannot be forthcoming. In her study, Ollmann (1993) states,

They read what interests them, what suits their purposes. Also, self-selection enables students to pursue personal interests. When kids define what they care about, they begin to define who they are.

Another factor that influences adolescents in choosing a book is "the unusual" or "the strange" themes (McKenna, 1986). The fascination with the unusual grips the attention of students and keeps them interested. In this researcher's classroom, she observed this to be very true. Students reading about a boy catching a shark, cutting open its stomach to determine what kind of bait to use and finding a man's finger with a bear tattooed on it captured their attention and held it to the end. In the study, McKenna (1986) stated,

It might well be that books writtten about extremely unusual topics tend to appeal due to the curiosity they create in the prospective reader, curiosity which is not limited to either sex or to any certain age (p.320).

Another important factor that influences adolescents with selecting a book is the cover (Gerlach & Rhinehart, 1992). The inferences that the cover implies to the student may induce the student to read it. The action seen on the cover may lead the student to draw certain conclusions about the story. This researcher has observed many students looking at the cover and then look at summary on the back. In the study conducted by Gerlach & Rhinehart (1992) students said,

I like the pictures on the cover; they are the best part of the book. Pictures on the covers tell me the most about the books I read (p.293).



It is no wonder that students are so strongly influenced by the cover on a trade book because they respond readily to pictures and color. From early childhood picture books are a predominately large part of a child's learning.

## CHAPTER III

### PROCEDURE

#### Review of Journal Articles

This researcher reviewed journal articles to collect information on what types of trade books were available to be used in a literature-base classroom (Atwell, 1985; Mackey, 1990; Muller, 1975; Moss, 1991.) Other journal articles that this researcher reviewed presented her with information about what influenced students to select their books. (Gerlack & Cole, 1992; Ollman, 1993; McKenna, 1986; Vogel & Zancanella, 1991). This researcher felt this information was helpful in understanding the young adult choices so that the books listed in the annotated bibliography would be consistent with what adolescents look for in their book selections.

#### Review of Professional Texts

Professional texts were reviewed by this researcher to gather information about students and their successful involvement with a literature-base program. The text (fourth edition), Children's Literature in the Elementary School, authored by Charlotte Huck et al., states that the importance of exposing children to a wide range of books can create lifetime readers. In the text by Barbara Cullinan,

Children's Literature in the Reading Program, Cullinan  
purports,

One of the most important uses of trade books in the reading program is to provide students with opportunities to understand, appreciate, and evaluate the feelings and actions of characters. (p.130)

This text by Cullinan provided this researcher with information about handbooks and bibliography development.

#### Review of the Trade Books

The review of trade books was necessary so this researcher could compile the list of books that would be in the annotated bibliography. In that review, she determined the level of difficulty of each of the books so that there was a wide range of reading levels that would accommodate the student's range of reading. The review of books also helped in touching of many different topics or subject matter.

#### Subjects

The students who were involved with this research project were eighth graders. They ranged in age from thirteen to fifteen and were both males and females. The racial composition consisted of a larger Black population than Caucasian. The socio-economic factor was middle to

lower middle income background. The students range in reading ability.

### Setting

#### School

The school is located in the southwestern part of Ohio. This middle school has an urban setting in a city of more than one hundred thousand residents.

#### Community

The community in which the school is located is considered an older section of the city and its residents are largely white. The students are bused from other communities and therefore, students do not share a common neighborhoods but do share a common urban community.

### Adminstration of the Annotated Biliography

The annotated bibliography was presented to each class and was available for every student's use for a period of two weeks.

### Data Collection

#### Construction of Questionnaire

The questionnaire consisting of ten questions that related to the usefulness of the instrument in the classroom

was completed by researcher's eighth grade students. Four demographic questions were included in the questionnaire.

#### Construction of the Handbook

The procedure that this researcher followed consisted of the following steps:

1. Collect and review the trade books.
2. Categorize the trade books into the following :

##### FICTION

- a. Adventure
- b. Animals
- c. Fantasy & Science Fiction
- d. Humor
- e. Mystery
- f. Relationships
- g. Series
- h. Sports
- J. Suspense-Thrillers

##### NON-FICTION

- a. Biography - Sports Figures
- b. Biography - Famous People

3. Wrote the bibliography and an annotation for each book.
4. Selected and color copied book covers for each category.
5. Instructed the class on how to use the instrument.

This researcher decided after constructing the annotated bibliography to do the following things:

1. Design covers for each separate category that was used in the classroom. The bulkiness and the length of the entire document was reduced to ten documents that correlated to the ten categories.
2. The documents were placed in the classroom to be used at the student's convenience.
3. After two weeks, a questionnaire was available to any students who had used the annotated bibliography even if that student had not found a book to read.
4. This researcher then collected the questionnaire and determined its usefulness.

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS

#### The Annotated Bibliography

This handbook of annotated bibliographies was designed for the benefit of eighth grade students in an urban middle school setting. It was written expressly to get them motivated to read by introducing a variety of trade books for their enjoyment and to build upon their experiences in reading.

#### Opinions of Students

The information obtained from the Questionnaire (Appendix A) was organized into three tables (Appendix B). Each table demonstrated the results in percentages. The first table included all student responses. The second table included the responses of the boys and the third table presented the responses of the girls.

#### Presentation of the Data

The data from the questionnaire which included demographic information about each student and ten questions relating to the use of the annotated bibliography was tabulated in percentages. (See Appendices A,B,C,D)

## Discussion of the Data

### Table 1 - 50 Students

After the percentages were tabulated on the first table which included all fifty students, this researcher could ascertain that the annotated bibliography helped in the following ways;

1. Students were more likely to be motivated to read on their own when the choice of book was made by the individual rather than by the teacher. Specifically, Question VI asked the student if the annotated bibliography introduced a book that they might read on their own, and 82% answered affirmatively. This was confirmed also by the number of students who actually requested a particular book from the bibliography and signed that book out. This researcher kept their request cards on file as a way to keep a record of their choices as well as knowing what books were in and out of her classroom.

2. Another implication this researcher obtained from the first table was that the bibliography saved them time. From this table 80% of all the students thought that using the bibliography saved time. This was supported by the question VII of discovering the main idea quickly in which 78% of all students answered affirmatively. Therefore, one



reason it saved time was directly related to finding out what the book was about and making a decision to read or not to read that specific book.

3. A large majority of students, 84%, agreed that the bibliography provided at least one area of interest that matched one of their personal interests. This implied to this researcher that students would read if they had the opportunity of find a topic that matched with something that appealed to them. At this age level, 13 and 14, students have already developed specific likes and dislikes and are often not tolerant when their preferences are continually dismissed in the classroom.

4. Sixty percent of all students did not regard using the annotated bibliography as a class assignment. Therefore there were no consequences, such as a grade, if a student did not decide to use it. This indicated that they really wanted to read a book that was in the classroom library for their personal enjoyment.

5. In response to the question 8, 58% of all students agreed that the instrument motivated them to read a book that might not have otherwise read. This researcher can speculate that students' introduction to new books would account for this majority.

### Table 2 - 25 Boy's Responses

The following points can be presented from perusing the responses made by the eighth grade males.

1. The most significant response was made to the question of reading a book on their own. Twenty-two out of twenty-five students, or 88%, said affirmatively that they might read a book on their own after finding it in the annotated bibliography. (question 6)

2. Twenty out of twenty-five boys, or 80%, agreed that in the annotated bibliography were books that matched one of their personal interest. (question 10) This might account for one of the reasons that they would read a book on their own. (question 6)

3. In responding to the question of saving time, 76% or nineteen out of twenty-five boys said that it did save time. That was supported by question 7 which asked them if the annotated bibliography was a quick way of discovering the main idea, of which 80% agreed.

### Table 3 - 25 Girl's Responses

After tabulating the girls' responses, this researcher determined the following points;

1. Twenty-three out of twenty-five girls, or 88%, said they found books that matched their own interests. The categories were designed to include a variety of topics, books with high interest, and books varying degrees of difficulty, all of which attributed to the vast majority of girls who found something that particularly interested them.

2. Eighty-four per cent of the girls thought that the annotated bibliography saved them time because of the following reason.(question 10) The main idea was found quickly by 76% of the girls.(question 7)

3. Fifteen out of twenty-five girls, or 60%, used the annotated bibliography for a specific title which indicated to this researcher that they had heard about the book previously or was familiar with the author.

#### Comparison of Table 1 and Table 2

##### Looking at the differences

##### Question 2

Eighty percent as compared to sixty percent of the girls said they looked for a specific title which may imply that girls are not as decisive about what they want to read as the boys. Girls like to browse through the books before they make up their minds whereas the boys generally know before hand.

#### Question 6

Question six asked the student if the annotated bibliography introduced a book that they might read on their own. The boys, 22 out of 25, said yes they would; whereas, the girls, 19 out of 25, said yes. The percentage of boys who answered affirmatively was much higher, 88%, than the girls, 76%. This implied to the researcher that boys might be more inclined to read if they can take it home to read. Girls on the other hand might read more readily on their own either at school or at home.

#### Question 8

More boys than girls responded that the annotated bibliography motivated them to read a book that they otherwise would not have read. Sixty percent of the boys compared to 56% of the girls were motivated. However, there were 12% of the girls that were unsure and only 4% of the boys were unsure.

#### Question 10

When asked if the annotated bibliography matched an interest with one of their personal interest, more girls found this to be true than did the boys. This may mean that

there were more books that had more appeal to girls than boys. It may indicate that the boys did not take as much time in finding a book that matched their interest as shown in the 12% of them who were unsure.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

#### Purpose

The purpose of this research project was to develop an annotated bibliography in a literature-based classroom so that the students could have access to a variety of trade books which they could read at their convenience and at their own pace.

#### The Problem Statement

The purpose of this study was twofold; to design an annotated bibliography of trade books for the middle school student in a literature-base classroom and to determine the opinions of these students as to its usefulness.

#### Procedure

The procedure that this researcher followed included reviews of professional journals, texts, and trade books. The development of the handbook included annotated bibliographies of young adult books which were grouped into ten different categories. The annotated bibliography was placed into the classroom and after a period of two weeks, students who used the instrument were given a questionnaire

which they completed and returned to this researcher. Their answers were tabulated in percentages and the results were presented in three different tables. A determination of the usefulness of the instrument was then made.

### Conclusions

The annotated bibliography was determined by the results of the questionnaire to be useful in several ways. First, the instrument saved the students time in finding a book. Second, the annotated bibliography motivated them to read on their own. And third, the annotated bibliography listed books that matched some personal interest of theirs which, in turn, motivated them to read.

The experience of using the handbook gave the student a means to become familiar with books and authors that they would not have otherwise known. The continued hands-on experience with the annotated bibliography helped students become more independent in their book selection.

### Recommendations

This researcher recommends to reading teachers in a middle school environment to incorporate a tool such as this annotated bibliography in the classroom. It is suggested, however, that the bibliography be separated into the ten categories so that the students will not be overwhelmed by

the document in toto. Another advantage of separating the bibliography into ten parts is so more students can use it at once. With ten separate documents the teacher can have more flexibility with its use. For example, the teacher can focus on the series section and have students do research on series not included. Students also can concentrate on one series and determine why that particular series is so popular.

It is also recommended that book covers be color copied and used as an eye catcher and a motivator, even if a student is interested in only that particular book.

Another recommendation is to have a color-coded system for checking out the books. With the large number of books in this annotated bibliography organization is a priority. A request card for a specific book includes the student's name and period. Each class has a specific color which makes checking books out much easier.

The last recommendation this researcher suggest is to have the bibliography accessible. Whenever a student has completed an in-class assignment, the instrument is thus available. Having it available during home room also encourages students to use it.



## APPENDIX A

Write an X in the appropriate blank.

Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your Favorite subject? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your least favorite subject (academic)? \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONNAIRE

**Directions:** Read each sentence carefully. Circle the Y for Yes or N for No. If you are not certain about your answer, circle the U for Unsure. DO NOT put your name on the questionnaire.

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Do you have a personal copy of the annotated bibliography?   | Y | N | U |
| 2. Did you use the annotated bibliography to locate a specific title you were interested in reading?            | Y | N | U |
| 3. Did you use the annotated bibliography to find out what a specific book was about?                           | Y | N | U |
| 4. Did you use the annotated bibliography to fulfill an assignment for literature class?                        | Y | N | U |
| 5. Did you use the annotated bibliography to locate a book for another class?                                   | Y | N | U |
| 6. Did this annotated bibliography introduce a book to you that you might read on your own?                     | Y | N | U |
| 7. Do you think that an annotated bibliography is a quick way to discover main ideas in a book?                 | Y | N | U |
| 8. Did the annotated bibliography motivate you to read a book you otherwise would not have read?                | Y | N | U |
| 9. Did the annotated bibliography save you time?  | Y | N | U |
| 10. Did the annotated bibliography provide one area of interest that matched one of your own personal interest? | Y | N | U |

## APPENDIX B

TABLE 1

ALL 50 STUDENTS RESPONSE TO QUESTIONNAIRE  
CONCERNING THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE USE OF  
THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

	YES	NO	UNSURE
QUESTION 1	40%	50%	10%
QUESTION 2	70%	22%	8%
QUESTION 3	66%	28%	6%
QUESTION 4	26%	60%	14%
QUESTION 5	18%	80%	2%
QUESTION 6	82%	6%	12%
QUESTION 7	78%	16%	6%
QUESTION 8	58%	34%	8%
QUESTION 9	80%	12%	8%
QUESTION 10	84%	8%	8%

APPENDIX C

TABLE 2

25 BOY'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE  
CONCERNING THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE USE OF  
THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

	YES	NO	UNSURE
QUESTION 1	32%	60%	8%
QUESTION 2	80%	12%	8%
QUESTION 3	72%	24%	4%
QUESTION 4	36%	44%	20%
QUESTION 5	20%	80%	0
QUESTION 6	88%	0	12%
QUESTION 7	80%	12%	8%
QUESTION 8	60%	36%	4%
QUESTION 9	76%	12%	12%
QUESTION 10	80%	8%	12%

APPENDIX D

TABLE 3

25 GIRL'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONNAIRE  
CONCERNING THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE USE OF  
THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

	YES	NO	UNSURE
QUESTION 1	48%	40%	12%
QUESTION 2	60%	32%	8%
QUESTION 3	60%	32%	8%
QUESTION 4	16%	80%	4%
QUESTION 5	16%	80%	4%
QUESTION 6	76%	12%	12%
QUESTION 7	76%	20%	4%
QUESTION 8	56%	32%	12%
QUESTION 9	84%	12%	4%
QUESTION 10	88%	8%	4%

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An Annotated Bibliography for Middle School Students in a Literature-base Classroom and a Determination of its Usefulness for the Students.

The purpose of the study was twofold: to design an annotated bibliography of trade books for the middle school student in a literature-base classroom and determine the opinions of the students as to its usefulness.

The procedure that was taken began with establishing a collection of trade books that were deemed as young adult literature. The trade books were reviewed, summarized, and listed into fiction and non-fiction. Ten categories were incorporated : adventure, animals, humor, mystery, relationships, series, sports, and suspense. An opinion questionnaire of 10 questions with four demographic information was compiled after students used the tool.

The instrument was determined to be useful in the following ways : it saved time, it met an interest of the students, and it motivated them to read on their own.

THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY HANDBOOK

FOR

EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS AT

KISER MIDDLE SCHOOL



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## INTRODUCTION

This annotated bibliography is designed to be used by students in the classroom. It is hoped that it will be a way to introduce various types of adult literature to students who do not realize how many books there are that are written specifically for young teens.

## FICTION

### ADVENTURE

Anastasio, Dina. Virtual Reality Spy. Price Stern Sloan.  
Los Angeles. 1994. p.144.

The Virtual Reality Troopers are eighteen-year-old Ryan Steel, whose main goals are to find his father and to be a partner in dojo, and Kaitlin, who is a photojournalist, and third, J.B. Reese, who is an African American computer expert. In this episode the three VR Troopers are faced with uncovering a spy sent by their nemesis, Grimlord.

Avi. The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle. Avon Flare.  
1992. p. 232.

During the summer of 1832 Charlotte Doyle who is thirteen years old takes a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean to join her family in Boston. Her father tells her that she must keep a daily record in a journal about all of her experiences at sea. Not in her wildest dreams can Charlotte imagine the terrifying series of events that she will be involved in or that she will be accused of murder and brought to trial and found guilty. Will she ever see her parents? Will she be sent to prison? Is she really guilty?

Bagdon, Paul. Scrapper John, Valley of the Spotted Horses.  
Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1992.  
p.122.

This adventure takes place in the wild country of Montana. Scrapper John and his Indian friend, Seeks the Far Sky, set out to capture a wild horse in a canyon that has a legend that once it is entered no one can get out except through a narrow pass called The Path of Death!

Does it mean that death awaits these two friends?

Bauer, Marion. Face to Face. Dell Yearling Books. New  
York, New York. 1991. p. 176.

What does courage have to do with being a tough guy? Micheal wants protection from the bullies at school. His step-father gives him a rifle for his thirteenth birthday only to have it taken away. He decides to locate his father who works as a rafting guide in the Grand Canyon. Micheal

takes a trip down the most dangerous white-water river which creates an adventure that Micheal will never forget. That is, if he makes it out of the canyon in one piece.

Brennan, J. H. Shiva, The Adventure of the Ice Age. Harper Trophy. 1992. p. 188.

The setting of this story takes place during the Ice Age when the Neanderthal people were feared by the Cro-Magnon tribe. The young heroine, Shiva, is saved from an attack by a wolf by one of the ogres and Shiva takes him back to her tribe. Fearful of him the tribe wants to execute him and Shiva has to find a way to keep this from happening. How can she prevent a tribal conflict between the two tribes?

DeFelice, Cynthia. Weasel. Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1991. p. 119.

Weasel! No one knows for certain if he is man or part animal! Rumors across the country say he is wild and bloodthirsty and that he has killed without delay. The young boy and his sister who attempt to find out what has happened to their father comes across Weasel's path instead.

Terrified that they will never escape they try to outsmart Weasel. Is this creature going to kill them?

Gabhart, Ann. Bridge to Courage. Avon Flare Book. New York, New York. 1993. p. 143.

Teens enjoy belonging to a group. Luke wants to follow in his friend's footsteps so he can pass an initiation test of bravery. He finds that he cannot go through with the dare and has to face humiliation from his friends. Coping with his cowardice presents a real problem for Luke to solve.

How can he ever be anything but a coward? How does anyone go about building their courage?

Hobbs, Will. Downriver. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1991. p.204.

A group of friends face a perilous rafting trip down a river that seems to have holes that pop up in the middle of the river. Trying to save themselves from a certain death they discover what it takes to overcome gripping and unending fear.

Kamida, Vicki. X-Men, X-Tinction Agenda. Bullseye Books.  
New York, New York. 1994. p. 107.

Evil seems to dominate over the mutant superpowers. The X-Men, Storm, Wolfbane, and Havok, are prisoners in Genosha. Their superhuman powers are gone and the evil powers' goal is to make them brainless slaves. Where is the rest of the mutant team? Can they rescue Storm, Havok, and Wolfbane from defeat?

McClung, Robert M., Hugh Glass, Mountain Man. Beech Tree Books. New York, New York. 1993. p. 193.

Hugh Glass is a fur trapper in the Rocky Mountains during the 1820's. While trapping, he is viciously attacked by a grizzly bear. Practically torn in half, two trappers come upon him and are about to bury him when they sense Indians approaching into their camp. Quickly they leave Hugh's body to be ravaged by predators.

BUT...Hugh is not dead nor does he die. He is determined to find the two men who left him and seek revenge.

How does a man who is so horribly wounded crawl over 200 miles to find those who have wronged him?

Michaelson, Ben. Rescue Josh Mcquire. Hyperion. New York, New York. 1993. p.265.

Josh and his father often hunt together and this time his father kills a female bear who had a cub. His father directs Josh to leave the cub alone but he decides to go against his father's wishes and takes the cub home. A problem arises when the game warden finds out about the orphaned cub and Josh must surrender it to the warden. Unable to give the cub over to the officials, he and his dog and the cub head for the mountains and declares he will not return until Montana's hunting laws change. Josh has no idea the hazards he is about to face in the wilderness. How is he going to survive this ordeal?

Paulsen, Gary. The Island. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1988. p. 202.

Will Newton lives in the most northern part of Wisconsin. He discovers an island where he can be alone with his thoughts so he can write and draw and learn about nature. His parents think there is something more involved with his refusal to leave the island and tension builds between them. So much attention is brought about by his parents that every curiosity seeker in town become a part of the plot. What is he trying to prove by refusing to leave the island?

Paulson, Gary. Hatchet. Puffin Books. New York, New York.  
1988. p. 185.

Divorce is a word that haunts Brian's thoughts as he leaves home to visit his father in the Canadian wilderness. As a going away gift his mother gives him a hatchet. He is about to encounter the most terrifying trip in his life as he climbs into a single engined airplane for the oil fields where he father is working. Never would he dream that he is going to have to fly this plane by himself and land it safely.

What happens to Brian in that plane?

Ruckman, Ivy. Night of the Twisters. Harper Trophy. 1986.  
p. 153.

The tornado hits. Silence follows. Dan Hatcher with his baby brother and and friend sit huddled in a shower stall listening and waiting. Thoughts of their parents haunt them. Are they alive or dead? Is anyone alive? What is left of the town?

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. Fool's Gold. Yearling Books. New York, New York. 1994. p. 214.

This adventure takes place in the town of Pyramid, California, close to the Sierra Mountains. Years ago the pioneers came to the area mining for gold and left many abandoned mines, which are potentially death traps. Peer pressure from a newcomer, Tyler Lewis, forces Barney into a situation he thinks is really dangerous..... going into the death traps.

Taylor, Theodore. The Cay. Avon Flare. New York, New York. 1970. p. 144.

During World War II German submarines invade all parts of the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean in an effort to spy on their enemies, the British and the Americans. The inevitable finally happens on April 6, 1942. The German U-Boats torpedoes the ship that Philip and his mother are on and Philip is separated from the crew. With a great deal of luck Philip and a West Indian man named Tim float on a piece of wreckage that finally washes onto a deserted island beach.

Wier, Ester. The Loner. Scholastic. NewYork, New York.  
1963. p. 151.

David is an orphan who believes he needs no one because he has always taken care of himself. Resistant to working on a sheep ranch in Montana David begins to understand the value of friendship when disaster strikes.

## FICTION

### ANIMALS

Armstrong, William H. Sounder. Harper & Row. New York, New York. 1989. p. 118.

A coon dog comes up the dirt road and becomes a part of a sharecropper's family. His name is Sounder. The head of the family works hard to bring home enough food to feed the small ones and his wife. Life is hard but becomes worse when the sheriff arrives and drags the father off to a prison camp for stealing a ham bone. Shots ring out across the dusty clay road in front of their cabin. Did they kill Sounder?

Burnford, Sheila. The Incredible Journey. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1961. p. 147.

Three friends, a lab, a bullterrier, and a Siamese cat travel through the wilderness in Canada to return to the home they all love.

Cleary, Beverly. Ribsy. Avon Camelot Books. New York. New York. 1992. p. 132.

Ribsy, the Huggins' pet, gets separated from his owners while at the mall. Frantically he runs around the parking lot trying to find their car and with relief he joyfully hops into the back seat and falls asleep. When he awakens there are five strange faces staring down at him. They are trying to decide who should give him a bath and he is trying to figure a way out of ten stroking hands and five eager beaver kids.

Eckert, Allan. Incident at Hawk's Hill. Bantam Starfire Books. New York, New York. 1987. p. 191.

The praires in 1870 had farms that spread far across the horizon and families did not have too many close neighbors. Ben lives in that environment. One day he wanders too far from home and gets lost. He is adopted by a badger who had recently lost her babies and she shows Ben the way to survive in the wilderness. As far fetched as the story seems, it is based on a true incident.



George, Jean Craighead. On the Far Side of the Mountain.  
Puffin Book. New York, New York. 1991.

The Catskill Mountains are located in New York State and it is here that Sam Gribbley has decided to live off the land with only his faithful falcon, Frightful. For two years he and Frightful have learned many lessons from the wilderness. In this sequel to My Side of the Mountain his sister, Alice has also joined the ranks. She lives nearby in a tree house. Life is peaceful on the mountain but the unexpected seems to happen no matter where one might live.

The falcon is an endangered species and Leon Longbridge is the environmental conservation officer who finds Frightful and Sam. He takes the falcon away and Sam now has to cope with his feelings about losing the pet he loves so much.

Gipson, Fred. Old Yeller. Harper & Row. New York, New York. 1964. p.184.

Travis, who is fourteen, is responsible for keeping the farm going while his father is away. A mangey yellow fured dog creeps into the yard looking for food and gets scolded and tossed out. He comes back for more and finds a way into the hearts of Travis and his little brother. They call him Old Yeller. The dog becomes not only their friend but their rescuer in an adventure that warms any dog lover's heart.

Henry, Marguerite. San Domingo, The Medicine Hat Stallion.  
Aladdin Books. New York, New York. 1992.  
p.230.

Peter Lundy lives on the plains of Wyoming before the Civil War. He has two loves, the plains and his stallion, San Domingo. The Indians tell a legend about this horse saying that it is sacred and that no bullet or arrow can ever hurt its rider. Without knowing, Peter's father takes the horse and trades it to the Pony Express. Peter is so outraged that he decides to leave home forever.

Will he ever see San Domingo again? Will he never return home? Is the Indian legend true?

Kjelgaard, Jim. Big Red. Bantam Skylark. New York, New York, 1976. p.213.

Dan and his Irish Setter are inseparable. They live in the Wintapi wilderness and face many dangers together.

Their closest call with death happens when they meet face to face with Old Majesty, the black bear who reigns over this wilderness. Who wins?

Kjelgaard, Jim. Stormy. Bantam Skylark. New York, New York. 1978. p.150.

Allan Marley lives with his dad on a wilderness lake. One day the sheriff comes and takes his dad to prison and Allan is left by himself. Soon after that Allan is walking by the lake and sees a black retriever go through the ice. With quick reflexes Allan manages to save the dog and they become lifetime friends. Together they face the perils of the wilderness and the cruelty of man.

Morey, Walt. Kavik, the Wolf Dog. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1968. p.192.

Kavik is part wolf and part dog. As a pup he showed signs of wildness, but he is found by Andy who cares for him and tames him. Andy's father has different ideas about Kavik. He returns the dog to his prior owner, Mr. Hunter and now Andy is afraid he will never see Kavik again. Will Kavik be mistreated? How is Andy going to get the dog back?

Morey, Walt. Gentle Ben. Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1965. p. 191.

Boys attach themselves to all kinds of creatures but Mark Anderson has his hands full when he decides to love a brown bear. Every day after school he takes the long way home so he can go by the shed that houses a five year old bear. There is no fear in Mark as he gives the bear his left-over school lunch. He talks to the animal just like the bear was a small child because he has known it since it was a cub. When Mark finds out that the bear's life is in jeopardy, he pleads with his father to buy Ben from his ruthless owner. The bear is doomed unless Mark can persuade his dad to do something.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Shiloh. Dell Yearling. New York, New York. 1992. p.144.

Marty looks down at Shiloh and promises him that mean old Judd Travers will never kick him again. Marty has to find a way of hiding the dog so on one will know its whereabouts...not even his dad. He does not like to lie, but Marty decides it is the only way of keeping Shiloh safe. How long will it be before someone finds out where Shiloh is hidden? Will Shiloh end up with his abusive owner?

North, Sterling. The Wolfling. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1969. p.204.

In Wisconsin during the 1870's the land was filled with the cries of wolves. The full moon on cold winter nights shown down on the glistening snow which covered the wilderness. The howls of the wolves rang clear and long. Trappers and pioneers who laid wolf traps had successfully reduced the timber wolves numbers to almost nothing. But Robbie had different plans.

When he finds out that Old Three Toes, the wolf, had a litter of pups, he is determined to keep one of them for himself. There is one minor problem. He has to convince his parents that this wolfling can be trained as a hard working dog. How he is going to accomplish that is the challenge he faces.

O'Hara, Mary. My Friend Flicka. Harper & Row. New York, New York. 1988. p. 300.

Ken McLaughlin and his filly, Flicka, live on a ranch in Wyoming. Ken is in a continual conflict with his father. They do not agree on anything. Ken is a dreamer and his father thinks he is just lazy. When Ken's life is endangered, the two still do not become close. The gap just continues to grow. It is his horse, Flicka, that seemingly can communicate with Ken and direct him toward accepting responsibility on the ranch.

Rawls, Wilson. Where the Red Fern Grow. Bantam Starfire. New York, New York. 1974. p.249.

Billy lives in the hills where everyone cherishes their coon dogs. To own a coon is the most wonderful thing Billy can imagine happen to him. His family cannot afford to buy him a dog so Billy decides to work at his grandfather's store for the money. The day comes when his dream comes true. Old Dan and Little Ann are his cherished possessions. He loves them and they love him back. The adventures that come their way develops into a binding love that never ends.

Stonely, Jack. Scruffy. Bullseye Books. New York, New York. 1978. p.187.

To look at Scruffy one might not think she is anything but an ordinary Heinz 57. To follow Scruffy through her days after she is left behind by her owner reveals a dog

with courage, intelligence, and fortitude. Scruffy is soon to have her pups but she has to find a safe haven for them. This is not easy since the bulldozers are tearing down all the old tenement houses in the neighborhood where she lives, and hers is next. How does one pregnant dog survive?

Taylor, Theodore. The Trouble With Tuck. Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1981. p.110.

Tuck! Friar Tuck is what his family calls him and as all pets he is loved very much. The family finds out that Tuck is going blind and that Dr. Tolen cannot do anything for him. Unwilling to give up, they take Tuck to other doctors only to be given the same diagnosis. Should they put their beloved animal to sleep? Should they just tie him up in the yard for the rest of his life? What is the solution?

Taylor, Theodore. Tuck Triumphant. Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1991. p.150.

When Helen found out that Tuck was going blind and there was no operation that could reverse his fate, she came up with a brilliant solution. She got a seeing-eye dog to lead Tuck around. Now the family has adopted a six-year-old Korean orphan, Chok-Do. The family is attached to the child but something is not quite right. What is wrong is Chok-Do is deaf. Can Helen's imagination come up with another ingenious solution?

Terhune, Albert Payson. Lad: A Dog. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.286.

Lad is a pure bred Collie who has a loyalty to his master and mistress. He demonstrates this again and again as one adversity follows another.

Wallace, Bill. A Dog Called Kitty. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1980. p.137.

When Ricky was just a baby, he was attacked by a stray dog. Since that occurred, he is still terrified of dogs. One day many years after the attack, a poor starving pup finds its way into the family's barn. It is so afraid of everything it is starving to death. Both Ricky and the Kitty have to overcome their fears and begin to trust each other. Will Kitty accept food from Ricky? Will Ricky be able to overcome his fear to try and save the pup?

FICTION  
FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION

Alexander, Lloyd. The Cat Who Wished to Be a Man. Dell Yearling. 1973. p. 107.

Magician Stephanus has a cat who continually begs and pleads with him to change him into a human. The magician presents all the reasons why he, Lionel, should be grateful for being a cat rather than being a man. Lionel is persistent and finally persuades his master to work his magic so he can be a man.

Lionel discovers all the consequences of being human when he journeys to a small town and tries to fit in. He never considered that it might be impossible to go back to cathood so what will happen if he hates being human? His encounters with the towns people are funny and sometimes sad.

Andrews, Micheal. The Warrior's Tale. Dragon Strike Books. TSR, Inc. Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. 1993. p. 105.

Dare is the champion weapon master in the king's court. He must rescue the good wizard Alatorne before the evil One-Eyed Jack kills him.

Asprin, Robert. Another Fine Myth. Ace Books. Norfolk. 1978. p. 200.

The world of fantasy is a world of adventure and fun. Skeeve who is the young apprentice to the magician, Garvin, is trying to become a skilled magician. Before Skeeve learns all he needs to know, Garvin is killed and Skeeve finds himself with a very unusual demon named Aahz in a strange land. Aahz has lost all of his powers and Skeeve has no job so they both travel through a world of dragons, devils, and imps trying to survive.

Barrett, Neal. The Black Egg of Atlantis. Little, Brown, & Co. Boston. 1992. p. 75.

Batman versus The Penguin! Their meeting will be at midnight on Halloween. What are they fighting over? The evil Black Egg of Atlantis! The Penguin schemes to steal it while Batman tries to protect it. If the two evil elements combine their power, Gotham City and the world might not ever recover.

Christopher, John. When the Tripods Came. Avon Flare. New York, New York. 1984. p. 113.

A noise explodes in the middle of the night at the farm where Andy and Laurie live. It is too dark to tell what it is but the next morning when they look out the window, they see an alien space ship sprawled over the farmhouse. The capsule had long tenacles that looked like an elephant's trunk and it reached out and began to demolish everything it touched. Earth had been invaded by aliens in other areas of the United States at the very same time. What do these aliens want? Are they warlike? Are they peaceful?

Coville, Bruce. Goblins in the Castle. Minstral Books. 1992. p. 161.

Young William has lived at Toad-in-a-Cage Castle since he was left on the doorstep. He becomes curious about the castle and all its secret passageways and hidden rooms so he decides one evening to explore them. Behind an old clock is one passage that takes him down some five hundred steps below the ground level. He comes to a door. He stops. He looks at the heavy latch on it and just as he opens it.....

Coville, Bruce. The Dragonslayers. Minstrel Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.119.

The evil witch Grizelda creates a monstrous dragon to plague the kingdom of Mildred. The king hears about this dragon and its path of destruction and gathers his knights together to summon them to kill the dragon. Bickering and fighting withing the court causes delays.

The king's daughter Princess Wilhelmina wants to take things into her own hands even though young ladies are not suppose to get involved in topics like killing dragons but she is no ordinary princess. Will she be the one to capture the dragon? What kind of help will she need to accomplish this?

Coville, Bruce. My Teacher is an Alien. Minstrel Books. New York New York. 1989. p.123.

The substitute teacher, Mr. Smith, seems more than a little weird to Susan Simmons and her classmates, Peter and Duncan. Susan continually tries to stir things up by asking questions like, "Where is Ms. Schwartz? What is wrong with her? Are we going to do a play?" Susan thinks there is something really peculiar about this substitute so she decides to follow him home. This decision certainly changed everything. Susan's life would never be the same because what she saw no one would ever believe her...not even her best friend Peter. Mr. Smith was an alien!

Coville, Bruce. My Teacher Flunked the Planet. Minstrel Books. New York, New York. 1992. p.162.

Peter Thompson, Duncan Dougal, and Susan Simmons have been through a lot of experiences since they first encountered an alien who took over their class as their substitute teacher in My Teacher was as Alien. Now in this final book Peter and his friends fly over the earth in an alien ship seeing all the destruction man is doing to earth. He is the only one who can persuade the aliens not to destroy earth and he struggles with a finding a solution the Council will accept. They are soon going to meet and take a vote. Will Peter be the earth's hero?

Coville, Bruce. Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher. Minstrel Books. New York, New York. 1992. p. 148.

Jeremy Thatcher is a young boy who comes upon a magic shop where he buys a beautiful sphere with mystical moving colors for a quarter. Jeremy tells the shop keeper he really does not want it but the shop keeper tells Jeremy it wants him (Jeremy). The little sphere captivates Jeremy and after he gets home, he finds that what he has actually is a dragon... and that presents Jeremy with a lot of problems.

David, Peter. Star Trek the Next Generation, Wolf's First Adventure. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.119.

Worf is a Klingon who was raised by humans on planet Earth. When he goes to the Starfleet Academy, he is not accepted by the other cadets because he has historically been looked upon as the enemy. How is Worf going to overcome this prejudice?

Furlong, Monica. Juniper. Borzoi Sprinters. New York, New York. 1991. p. 198.

A female wizard is called a sorceress. Juniper's aunt is using black magic in the kingdom of Cornwall. Juniper has been away from the kingdom studying under Euny who has been teaching her the healing arts and conjuring spells. When she returns to Cornwall, she finds that her Aunt Meroot has cast a devastating curse on the land and now Juniper has to find a way to nullify Aunt Meroot's power. How can she save the kingdom from ruin?

Grant, Alan. Batman, Knightfall & Beyond. Bantam Books.  
New York, New York. 1994. p.157.

Gotham City! Home of Bruce Wayne and super hero, Batman! Batman has protected Gotham City from many an evil person and has conquered them one by one. This time he is confronted by Bane and does not win. Since Bruce Wayne is suffering from a crippling injury what will happen to the cape and who will step into the vacant slot of Batman?

Huges, Francine. X-Men, Wolverine:Duty and Honor. Bullseye Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.107.

Wolverine is a mutant and travels extensively. In this episode Wolverine is in Japan doing intelligence work for his government. He meets Mariko Yashida who is the daughter of a highly respected family right as an earthquake split under them as they talked. Quickly he grabbed her up and saved her life. That is the beginning. What is to follow is an adventure surrounding duty and honor.

Jacques, Brian. Redwall. Avon Books. New York, New York.  
1990. p. 351.

Mossflower is a peaceful forest where the great stone abbey of Redwall stands. This quiet and peaceful home of all the woodland creatures have pledged never to hurt another living creature unless their abbey is subjected to a violent act. And that is just about to happen!

Cluny the Scourge and his monstrous sea rats have gathered together to lay out a plan of attack. Their goal is to overtake the abbey and steal the famed sword of Martin the Warrior. Cluny is devious. Cluny is dangerous. Cluny is sly and cunning. He might succeed unless some creature in the abbey catches on to his plot before it is too late. Will Redwall fall into the hands of the enemy? If so, what will happen to all those who have enjoyed the peaceful living in the forest?

Korman, Justine. X-Men, The Xavier Files.Bullseye Books.  
New York, New York. 1994. p. 105.

The X-Men are mutants who have an X factor in their blood. This gives them superhuman characteristics. These physical powers raise them above any threat or conflict. They are protectors of humankind. In this episode a conflict exists between Charles and his step-brother Cain. Charles and his step-father were in the lab when an explosion occurred that took the doctor's life but before he died, he warned about the evil that existed in Cain? Who will win..Charles? Cain?



Lewis, C. S. The Magician's Nephew. Harper Trophy. New York, New York. 1994. p.221.

The land of Narnia is not at all like London, England where Digory and Polly live. It is a land they discover through the wonders of Uncle Andrew who says he is a magician. In this land are beautiful cool woods where beasts can talk and where amongst all the beauty an evil sorceress Jadis lurks. Will she cast a spell on the two friends and not release them back into the land of England?

Nesbit, Edith. The Enchanted Castle. Puffin Classics. New York, New York. 1979. p.253.

The garden was enchanted which means it had unusual powers. Three friends, Gerald, Cathy, and Jimmy, discover this beautiful place but even more startling they find a princess who has been asleep for a hundred years! They awaken her and suddenly she disappears right before their eyes. They want to rescue her from her own magic powers and their endeavors prove to be very funny at times and at other times quite scary.

Pierce, Tamora. In the Hand of the Goddess. Borzoi Sprinters. New York, New York. 1984. p.232.

Alanna wants to protect Jonathan which will take all of her superhuman strength to accomplish. A mysterious sorceress is trying to destroy her Prince Jonathan. A surprise that shocks Alanna occurs when she finds does meet the evil sorcerer because it turns out to be the prince's cousin, Duke Roger.

Sargent, Sarah. Weird Henry Berg. Bullseye Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.114.

Henry has a new pet. A lizard he named Vincent. This pet is truly eerie because his eyes glow and he is growing wings. It does not take long for Henry to realize he has a dragon and not a lizard. Thoughts of fame rush through his mind but things get so complicated. Aelf appears. And who is this? A full blown fierce dragon who has left Wales to recover Aelf. Major conflict blows between Henry who still dreams of fame and fortune and Aelf who insists Aelf belongs back in Wales with her.

Service, Pamela. Stinker from Space. Fawcett Juniper. New York, New York. 1988. p.84.

An outerspace war forces a space warrior to land on earth because of his wounds received in battle. Twynq Yr knows he must switch bodys with another body or death will

be instantaneous. He looks around. The only thing near is a skunk. He has no choice. Done! The space warrior still is faced with the problem of getting back to his planet with important information which will help his planet win a battle. Fortunately, Karen and her computer whiz friend find the skunk and get drawn into helping Tsynq.

Simonson, Louise. Doomsday & Beyond. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.190.

Doomsday! An evil that has been buried miles beneath the surface of the earth stirs. Within a steel vault he struggles with the bonds of imprisonment and finally one of the cables breaks. Freedom to surface is not far off for this creature of evil. The desire for destruction keeps Doomsday pounding away at his tomb. He knows it will not be long now. The best part of all is his thoughts of destroying the strongest man on earth, Superman. Soon...

Sleator, William. Interstellar Pig. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1984. p.196.

While on vacation, Barney becomes intrigued with a board game called Interstellar Pig. The game involves rival aliens who wage deadly combat so they can get control of the galaxy. Piggy's powers are not just a part of the game. The real truth about the game is that the fate of the Earth is at stake.

White, E.B. Charlotte's Web. Harpe Trophy Books. New York, New York. 1952. p.184.

Fern is a young farm girl who loves all things, but especially her pig, Wilbur. She refused to let her father kill him since he was the runt of the litter so from that moment on, the runt was her love. Fern loved talking to the animals and when she left, the animals talked to each other. In the barn lived Charlotte A. Cavatica who was a beautiful spider, Templeton who was a rat, and Wilbur. Wilbur grows into a healthy pig and father now thinks its time to butcher him. How Charlotte and all the animals work together to save Wilbur from this terrible fate is clever and exciting?

Williams, Tad. Tailchaser's Song. Daw Books, Inc. New York, New York. 1985. p.368.

Fritti Tailchaser is a ginger tom cat and Hushpad, is his catfriend. They are the major characters in this fantasy. Fritti who possesses a heritage that gives him the curiosity and courage to seek and rescue his friend, Hushpad, embarks upon a quest that takes him to cat Hades.

Yep, Laurence. Dragon Steel. Harper Trophy. New York: New York. 1985. p.275.

Dragons possess magical powers. It is so with Princess Shimmer who likes to transform herself into other forms. Her nemesis is the evil Civet who has taken Shimmer's clan and imprisoned them in the depths of the volcano mines. Here they labor over the hot fires tempering dragon steel. It is up to Shimmer to free them but easier said than done because she and her companions have to pass through dangerous waters where no one can be trusted.

Yolen, Jane. A Sending of Dragons. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1987. p.189.

Jakin and his friend, Akki, hide in the wilderness on the planet Austar IV. Suddenly, they hear strange cries that warn them of those who are searching for them are nearing. The cries are hatchlings, or baby dragons. The two men escape by hiding in a cave and are drawn deeper into its bowels by a hypnotic force. They find themselves in the territory of primitive people whose customs are terrifying to Jakin and Akki. How are they going to escape?

## FICTION

### HUMOR

Blume, Judy. Superfudge. Dell Yearling. New York, New York. 1980. p.123.

Peter thinks his little brother, Fudge, is really a pain. Fudge is a pest and is always getting in Peter's stuff, always asking stupid questions and wanting to do stupid things. But Peter has just been given the worst news of the decade. A new baby will be arriving...one that might be just like Fudge. Heaven help Peter!

Blume, Judy. Fudge-A-Mania. Dell Yearling. New York, New York. 1991. p.147.

Summer vacation is one thing Peter has been looking forward to all year. Now summer is here and his family has rented a cottage at the beach. Everything is fine and dandy. But OOPS! Catastrophe has struck Peter with a cruel blow. He has just been told that his little brother's friend, Sheila, will be sharing the upstairs apartment in their cottage. Pure torture! Pure fun!

Conford, Ellen. A Royal Pain. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1989. p. 177.

Abby Adams has been a small town girl from Kansas all of her sixteen years. Most girls who turn sixteen look forward to their first kiss but not Abby. She finds out that she really is a princess, namely Princess Florinda XIV. It seems as though there had been a mix-up in the nursery and Abby was mistakenly given to the wrong family. Now she is thrust into a court where princesses are very different from ordinary girls. Life is far from being dull!

Bernard, Patricia. Kanagroo Kids. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1989 p. 144.

Moving from the country to the city is no great joy for Tony. He thinks his apartment is a dump when the landlord tells them they cannot have pets. Life seems like a dump. He gets into fights at school, manages to get black eyes and bloody noses. Trouble just does not want to go away. And now trouble comes in the shape of a baby kangaroo named Midge. All he has to do is keep her existence a secret from everyone. No big deal! How long is that going to take? Kangaroos aren't loud, are they?

Danziger, Paula. Can You Sue Your Parents for Malpractice?. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York, 1980. p. 147.

Lauren who is a ninth grader decides to take a class called, Law for Children and Young People, because she thinks her life is the absolute pits. Lauren has two sisters, one who is older, and the other, who is younger. Being in the middle is no fun particularly when your older sister gets everything she wants and then some and your younger sister thinks she is the future stand-up comic of the decade. That leaves Lauren with nothing! She thinks she has no rights at all so off to class she goes!

Brancato, Robin. Uneasy Money. Boraio Sprinters. New York, New York. 1989. p.230.

Winning the lottery is a dream that many people wish would happen to them. And it remains just that...a dream! With eighteen-year old Mike Bronti winning the lottery is a reality. Yes! He wins over two million dollars. What a life Mike can have now. Everything he wants. But wait! Why is this book called Uneasy Money?

Dahl, Roald. George's Marvelous Medicine. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1982. p.89.

Most grandmas are kind, loving, and generous but George's grandma is not even close to that description. Instead she is the grouchiest person George has ever known. His plan is to invent some kind of brew or medicine that will turn her into the greatest person in the world. What are the results of this concoction? Does he go overboard with his mixtures? Poor old grandma, she's in store for a big surprise.....maybe.

Gardiner, John Reynolds. Top Secret. Bantam Skylark. New York, New York. 1984. p.110.

Allen Brewster loves science and he has a most ingenious science project. He thinks he has solved the mystery of human photosynthesis. One problem has unfortunately shown up. He is turning a wonderful shade of green and is sprouting roots. Yes! Allen is slowly turning into a plant! This is a small problem in comparison to his other problem. The president has declared him a threat to national security. Good grief, how is he ever going to get out of this mess?

Godfrey, Martyn. Please Remove Your Elbow From My Ear.  
Avon Flare. New York, New York, 1993. p.122.

Who are the misfits in school? The detention bunch! Stormy Sprague is always in trouble. It just follows him around. He's in detention so often that he and the other misfortunates decide to form a hockey team and challenge the unbeatable Screaming Eagles. Have they lost their minds?

Manes, Stephen. Be A Perfect Person in Just Three Days!  
Bantam Skylark. New York , New York. p. 76.

Milo Crinkley is at the library one afternoon browsing through the books when some book falls off the top shelf and hits him right on the top of his head. He looks at the title, Be a Perfect Person in Three Days, and sees it is written by a Dr. Silverfish. Now it did not come close to being a scary story but since it was really a thin book, he decides to take a look anyway. This is the beginning of Milo's experiences for several days after he decides to follow the instructions by Dr. Silverfish. Everyone who knows Milo thinks he has just blown his fuse.

Manes, Stephen. Make Four Million Dollars By Next Thursday. Bantam Skylark. New York, New York. 1989. p. 87.

Jason reads Dr. Silverfish's book about how to become a millionaire quick. He gets a brilliant idea but needs his mother's help...since she will be involved. Will his plan work?

McArthur, Nancy. The Return of the Plant that Ate Dirty Socks. Avon Books. New York, New York. 1990. p. 136.

Mischief makers! No, not the boys. But the sock-eating plants! These two plants even have names. Fluffy and Stanley. Weird is an accurate adjective for these two plants. But Norman wakes up and notices that the plant, Stanley, looks different. When they examine it closely they see little green "thingies" growing all over it. Micheal's reaction is that these shapes resemble teeny weeny socks. Most unusual! Do they have an exotic plant and how are they going to keep this from their nosey neighbor who happens to be a scientist?

McGuire, Leslie. My Hair Turned Green (and I Feel Blue).  
Berkley Splash Book. New York, New York.  
1992. p.154.

Girls are never satisfied with their hair or clothes or nails or most anything. Julia wants to be a blonde, Abigail wants to look more sophisticated and Melissa wants to do something immediately so she will not have to look at her straight hair for one more second. They do not have money to go to the beauty parlor so they decide to be their own beauty shop. Haircuts, shampoos, and the works! But disaster strikes just when Melissa is getting ready to go out on her date.

Peck, Robert Newton. Soup's Uncle. Dell Yearling. New York, New York. 1988. p. 122.

A gang of motorcyclists, the Hardboilers, roar into town. Soup's uncle is one tough cyclist. He is a little different to say the least but Soup and his pal, Rob, really want to go on a ride on Uncle Vi's cycle. They instead stumble upon something strange in Mr. Tightknicker's barn and they want to investigate it. The only thing that is interfering with their plan is the kid who lives next to the barn, mean Janice Riker. How can they find out about the mystery in the barn with her so close by? She will surely come snooping around at the worst possible moment!

Robinson, Barbara. The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Harper Trophy. New York, New York. 1972. p.80.

The Herdman clan is unbearable! The kids swear at their teachers, smoke cigarettes, and create havoc wherever they go. One Sunday the Herdmans descend upon church and find out that there is going to be a Christmas pageant and the tryouts are going to start soon. They want to be in the pageant for all the wrong reasons but primarily, for the food. Is this going to end up being the worst pageant in the history of the church? How much damage can a few little kids do anyway?

Spinelli, Jerry. Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?  
Laurel-Leaf. New York, New York. 1984.p.220.

Megamouth is what Greg calls his sister and Grosso is what his sister calls him. To Megan the house should be declared unsafe to live in because Grosso puts hairs in her toothbrush. Grosso says Megamouth deliberately puts roaches in his bedroom. The fun never stops between these two battling teens who have to live in the same house.

## FICTION

### MYSTERIES

Avi. The Man Who Was Poe. Avon Flare. New York, New York.  
1991. p. 278.

Edmund and his sister are newcomers to America. The story opens with the two children waiting for their aunt to return to the cold, sparsely furnished apartment in Rhode Island. Two days have past and they decide that they must go against Aunt Pru's directions not to leave the apartment. Edmund goes down the street to get some bread and gets detained by an old blind man who needs help getting back to his own street. When Edmund finally gets back to the apartment, Sis is gone. Now Edmund faces not only a search for Sis but his aunt and his mother.

Lonely and desperate he seeks help from a man in a cape to solve the mysterious disappearances of Sis and Aunt Pru. His identity is as mysterious as Sis's disappearance. What are his motives in helping Edmund?

Banks, Lynne Reid. Melusine. Harper Keypoint. New York,  
New York. 1989. p. 289.

What should someone do when something strange is going on in a family? Ryan, the main character, is faced with questions about his new friend Melusine. He wonders if she is being abused. He also has an experience one night during a frightful storm that leaves the family in total darkness. When he goes upstairs to his bedroom to look for his flashlight he finds something uncanny, unexplainable. At first he thinks it is Melusine's arm but it really is.....

Cooney, Caroline. The Face on the Milk Carton. Bantam  
Books. New York, New York. 1990. p. 184.

Janie Johnson is sitting in the school cafeteria with her friends enjoying their break from classes when she takes Sarah-Charlotte's milk. She looks at the face of the little girl on the carton. Everything stops. She stares at the picture of the missing child. "How can it be," she thinks to herself? I know that little girl!

Kidnapped? What puzzling events that take place after Janie first sees herself on the milk carton send her into an emotional turmoil.



Duncan, Lois. I Know What You Did Last Summer. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1975. p.198.

It is very difficult to keep a secret forever. Four friends who know about a tragic incident have vowed not to tell anyone what happened. Somehow someone has discovered the truth and is stalking the group. What are his plans?

Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Avon Camelot Books. 1981.

Meet Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in a collection of mysteries that take the reader back to 19th century London. Sherlock Holmes is a private detective who, through deductive reasoning, can solve the most complex cases in England.

Foley, Louise Munro. "Poison!" said the Cat. Berkley/Splash Books. New York, New York. 1992. p.187.

Kiki and her cat, Pumpkin, discover a strange yearbook in Pioneer Junior High. A rash of poisonings are targeted at Kiki's friends and it seems as though they are not accidental. All of these occurrences seem to have coincided with the fund-raising for a new swimming pool. What the poisonings have to do with the fund-raiser is a question that Kiki and her cat are determined to find out. To add to that problem Kiki finds her face is slashed on a poster and is fearful that this is a forewarning. Danger is drawing closer. Kiki is not safe!

Ferguson, Alane. Show Me the Evidence. Avon Flare Book. New York, New York. 1990.p.164.

Uncovering a crime when there are no witnesses, no fingerprints, and no evidence leads to conjecture about the killer. The main character, Janaan, cannot prove her innocence or guilt. The events to uncover the truth are perplexing and horrifying because she is not aware she is running with a killer.

Hilgarnder, Beth. A Murder for her Majesty. Houghton Mifflin Co. Boston. 1986. p. 216.

What does a person do when she witnesses a crime?

Alice Tuckfield saw her father killed and she is afraid they are agents of Queen Elizabeth. She has to find a safe place to hide because she thinks they will try to kill her, too. Where can she go?

She finds the perfect place...a cathedral....as a choir boy. The question is how long can she keep her disguise a secret? What will happen to her if she is discovered?

Martin, Ann. M. Mary Anne and the Library Mystery. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1994. p.143.

Stoneybrook needs new books for their library so they decide to have a fund raiser. Mysterious fires are being set and everyone is wondering why someone would want to burn down the school's library, especially when there are so many kids participating in the fund raiser.

Newman, Robert. The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars. Aladdin Books. New York, New York. 1978. p. 278.

Being in a strange city is bad enough for Andrew but when the only person he knows disappears he does not know where to turn. He fortunately meets Screamer who is about his age and she offers to help. She introduces him to Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes. After telling the detective and his sidekick, Watson, about the events that led up to the disappearance, subsequent events begin to make things quiet alarming. Bombings at an art gallery and blackmail are all a part of this fast moving mystery.

Pope, Elizabeth Marie. The Perilous Gard. Puffin Books. 1992. p. 232.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth of England, the life of young ladies was quiet different from contemporary times. Kate Sutton is a young lady who gets blamed for some mischief her sister had initiated. As a result Kate ends up being removed from the Queen's court and sent to the mysterious castle, Elvenwood, under the care of Geoffrey Heron. The gossip about the house she hears concerns the death of Sir Geoffrey's daughter, Cecily. The motive is greed. He wants to get all of the inheritance. How does Kate figure into the scheme of things? Will she be an innocent bystander who ends up dead, also? Why does everyone want her to stay away from the Holy Well?

Fullman, Philip. The Ruby in the Smoke. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1987. p. 230.

Sally Lockert has returned to London ten years after her father's death. The employees of Lockhart and Selby remember her when she walks in. When she starts to talk to them about her father's death and what the meaning of the "Seven Blessing" is, an employee falls over dead. The look of fear on his face remains a permanent memory for Sally. In a matter of minutes her life takes a turn that leads her into a series of unforgettable events.

Raskin, Ellen. The Westing Game. Avon Flare. New York, New York, 1984. p. 184.

Sam Westin has died leaving an estate worth over two hundred million dollars. In his will he claims that he was murdered and the person who unravels the mystery of his death will inherit his fortune. There are sixteen people who are invited to participate in the solving of this mystery. Events take place that seem to make the mystery even that much more perplexing but someone figures it out. Who wins the two hundred million dollars?

Whitney, Phyllis A. Mystery of the Hidden Hand. Fawcett Juniper. New York, New York. 1991. p.212.

Gale Tyler and her brother, Warren, are spending the summer on the Greek Island of Rhodes. Their aunt and uncle own the hotel they are staying at and they are eager to meet their cousin Anastasia and her sister who is a famous ballerina. On the way to her room she sees a man in a black cape running down the hall of the hotel. Her suspicious nature takes charge and leads her into an adventure involving old Greek artifacts and secrets that have been hidden for many years. Is this one time when Gale should forget about solving a mystery since she is in an unfamiliar country?

Wolfe, Hillary. Dead Asleep. Kensington Publishing Corp. New York, New York. 1994. p.221.

Eden Fane and Nikki Zenas are great friends. Eden mysteriously disappears and Nikki begins to have dreams about her friend who is pleading for help.

Classmates are experimenting with strange and eerie black magic rituals and Nikki thinks she might be a victim of some madman who wants to destroy the high school students.

Zindel, Paul. The Pigman. Bantam Books, New York, New York. 1969. p.158.

Secrets have a way of coming out and the Pigman, who is really Mr. Pignati, has an awful secret. Secrets also make a person rather mysterious and often misunderstood. He is lonely and old but somehow Lorraine and her boyfriend, John, get involved in his life and decide to tell his secret to everyone. What has Mr. Pignati hidden for so long? Why will revealing his secret hurt so many people?

## FICTION

### RELATIONSHIPS

Avi. Blue Heron. Avon Camelot. New York, New York. 1992.  
p.185.

Maggie is thirteen. Her parents are divorced and she is visiting her father and his wife, Joanna in Sawdy Pond, Massachusetts. The scenery is filled with green marsh grass, water, and boats. As she sits in the car listening to her stepmother and looking at her stepsister, she feels panicky. The knot in her throat gets bigger and she knows that tears will be following soon. She has not seen her father in over six months and now she has to learn to come to terms with everything. She finds answers to many of her questions in an unusual way. Nature comes to her aid.

Auch, Mary Jane. A Sudden Change of Family. Minstrel Books. New York, New York. 1990.p.152.

Katy and her mom go to the Connecticut shore every summer for a family reunion. Wonderful times create wonderful memories for Katy until one day she finds out that her mother was adopted and worse yet, her mother did not know about it. Furious Kate's mom goes on a quest to find her real mother and real family. When they do succeed, they are both in for a shock.

Armstrong, Jennifer. Steal Away. Apple Paperback. New York, New York. 1992. p.206.

Friendship between Susannah and Bethlehem help the two runaways face their journey from Virginia to Vermont easier than if they had tried to do it separately. Susannah is an orphan and Bethlehem is a slave. Both girls believe they can have a better life in Vermont and embark on a harrowing journey.

Blume, Judy. Deenie. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1991. p.143.

Deenie is a beautiful young girl who dreams of being a model. Being in junior high Deenie is very aware of how she looks and when she does not get picked for the cheerleading squad, she tries to hide her disappointment. Things just do not seem to be going right for Deenie. Not being a cheerleader becomes secondary when she finds out that she has idiopathic scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, and has to wear a brace. How is she ever going to face her friends looking like a box?

Cooney, Caroline b. Whatever Happened to Janie?

Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1993.  
p.199.

The mystery of Janie Johnson's kidnapping become clear as she finds her real family and goes back to live with them. The feelings each member of the Spring family are vastly different and how they cope with her return brings tension along with relief. Both families love Janie but what is right for her is a question everyone has to find an answer for.

Hassler, Jon. Jemmy. Fawcett Juniper. New York, New York.  
1989.p.149.

To Jemmy family means confusion and restrictions. Since her mother's death her alcoholic father thinks she should take over all of the home's responsibilities including the care of her younger sister and brother. This is really hard on the seventeen-year-old Jemmy but life becomes unbearable when her father has demanded that she quit school. Walking home from school she gets caught in a blizzard and her life becomes very different as a result.

Haynes, Betsy. The Great Mom Swap. Skylark Book. New York,  
New York. 1986. p.149.

Mothers and daughters! For a teenager this can mean nothing but trouble. Two friends, Lorna and Scotti, think life would be better if they could just not have to deal with their mothers' demands. Then a brilliant idea strikes! Switch moms!

Hinton, S. E. The Outsiders. Laurel-Leaf. New York, New  
York. 1967. p.156.

Family may include one parent with children and sometimes include no parents...just the children. Ponyboy's mother and dad were killed in an accident and now his older brother Darry takes care of him and Soda. This is a story about this family and their close friends called the Socs. It is also about how violence can create a nightmare for Ponyboy and his friend, Johnny Cakes.

Humphreys, Martha. Until Whatever. Scholastic, Inc. New  
York, New York. 1991. p.150.

Aids is topic at Connie's school and everyone is looking at her. Why? Everyone knows she has the dreaded aids disease and now she is an outcast. Her school mates think she should not even be in school. Connie feels the isolation and the desperation but there is no one there to talk to until...

Kline, Norma. The Queen of the What Ifs. Fawcett Juniper.  
New York, New York. 1982. p.221.

Robin Vey worries about everything. What if this should happen? What is that should happen? Her world is changing because everyone close to her is changing. Her dad wants to write a novel. Her mother thinks she needs a job so she can find herself, and she is having thoughts about a boy named Mason ... about being alone with him. All these changing relationships bring Robin stress and worry. How can a normal fifteen-year-old keep things together?

Martin, Ann M. Slam Book. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1989. p.154.

Slam books are a part of junior high. Anna was popular in her old school but now that she is in high school she wants to make sure she is somebody. How? She starts a slam book and passes it around. All the students who wrote in it make comments about other people....comments that are cruel and vicious. The slam book started out as fun but ends up hurting someone really bad.

Mazer, Norma Fox. Silver. Avon Flare. New York, New York. 1988. p.202.

Silver's mother wants her to have a better life than she had but obstacles interfere with this happening. Silver has to keep a secret until she knows she has to have someone to talk to about it. The clique of girls she runs with in junior high have secrets of their own. What can Silver do about her problem when even her mother does not believe her?

McDaniel, Lauren. Six Months to Live. Willowisp Press, Pinellas Park, Fla. 1985.p.136.

The doctor came into the room where Dawn and her parents sat. The news was not good. Dawn finds out she has acute lymphocytic leukemia. The weeks and months that follow are filled with ups and downs. How does a young person cope with cancer and the thoughts of death?

McDaniel, Lauren. Baby Alicia Is Dying. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.185.

Life often does not seem to be fair especially for eight-month-old Alicia who was born with HIV. Her teenage mother has given her away and the baby's home is at Childcare where teenager Desi meets her. Desi starts to love the baby but can she face the fact that Alicia will have countless obstacles to overcome. And the possibility of

death looms close by. Loving a child opens Desi's heart but can she cope with the loss, if it happens?

Meyer, Carolyn. White Lilacs. Gulliver Books. San Diego.  
1993. p.242.

Dillon, Texas, 1921, is the setting of this story which is based on a true event. The white community has gotten together to make some real changes. They want to tear down Freedomtown and build a park in its place. Those who live in that area will have to relocate but one young girl by the name of Rose Lee Jefferson thinks her neighborhood should come up with another plan. Can they fight city hall? Where would everyone go if they have to move? Questions with few answers plague Rose but she is not about to give up.

Myers, Walter Dean. Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff.  
Puffin Books. New York New York. 1975. p.190.

It is hard to move into a new neighborhood. No one knows Francis, nicknamed Stuff, but it doesn't take long when he sits out on the stoop in front of the apartment building. Within a short time he meets Cool Clyde, Fast Sam, Gloria, BB, Angel, Chalky, and Carnation Charlie. Friends are friends...nothing better than friends, through thick and thin. The laughs and the tears all go into a year that this group share something that lasts a lifetime.

Mikaelson, Ben. Sparrow Hawk Red. Hyperion. New York, New York. 1994. p.185.

Ben's world is shattered when he finds out the truth about his mother's death. There was no accident! The drug dealers were responsible! Revenge is foremost on his mind and when he decides to act upon those feelings, he runs away to Mexico. His goal is to work his way into the drug cartel's compound and steal a radar detector that allows the cartel to dodge the U.S. authorities when they cross over the boarder. If he gets caught, he knows it is the end!

Montgomery, L.M. Jane of Lantern Hill. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1989. p.217.

Family is important to Jane but when she finds out that her father is not dead as she had been told by her grandmother, she wants to go and spend the summer with him. Prince Edward Island is very different from the city of Toronto. Life there is very proper but on the island she can do all the unlady-like things that have been forbidden to her. Now that she knows her father her thoughts center around a way she, her mother, and her father can live together without her grandmother.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. Reluctantly Alice. Dell  
Yearling Books. New York, New York. 1991.  
p.182.

The first week at junior high could at best be rated a minus twenty as far as Alice was concerned. As the weeks go by, she changes her mind and it does not seem quite so bad. School is school and problems will always pop up...like her run-in with Denise Whitlock. Then she gets caught up in her older brother's problems as well as her widowed father's. Now her helping hand has really messed things up and she has to figure a way to clear things up.

Okimoto, Jean Davies. Molly by Any Other Name.  
Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1990.  
p.276.

Molly has lived her entire life knowing that she is adopted. She accepted it and never thought too much about it. But as she is older now her mind seems to be filled with questions about her birth mother and why she was given away. Molly wants to find out and her adopted family think she will open herself to a hurt that she might not be able to live with.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. Most Precious Blood. Bantam Books.  
New York, New York. 1991. p.169.

Val Castaldi always considered herself a good daughter. She was a part of a closely knit family and she knew her parents would do anything for her. Her needs have always been taken care of and life has been wonderful.

Until... her mother dies...and then there's the envelope. The one she is looking at now. On the outside is an inscription, "To Val to be read on her eighteenth birthday." It was her mother's handwriting. Her mother was dead and couldn't answer questions that flooded her mind. She would have to wait another year before her next birthday. Her fingers caressed the envelope. She struggled with her thoughts and her emotions. Should she wait?

Roberts, Nadine. With Love, From Sam and Me. Fawcett  
Juniper. New York, New York. 1990. p.135.

The large brown eyes of the toddler, Sam, looked up at Marylou and she loved him immediately. They lived in a foster home with Aunt Bonnie and Uncle Ed (not really their relatives) neither of whom cared about the kids at all. Their interest was purely financial. One day, Ed became very angry with Sam because he was crying so Ed started to hit the baby. This was too much for Marylou so she decides to take Sam and run away. Escaping from one problem often



leads to more problems. How can a fifteen-year-old girl feed and clothe a little kid? What happens to foster children when there's no place to go?

Taylor, Mildred D. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1991. p.394.

This is the sequel to Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. The Logans are facing a frightening time because their friend T.J. has been charged with murder and he has to stand trial. The racial tension in the south has not eased and Cassie sees the injustices that happen every day. Blacks have never had the right to vote in presidential elections and no one has ever pushed for it up until Mrs. Lee Annie decides to go against the status quo. Life is hard but the Logan family has a personal quality that will not allow them to be beaten down...their pride and their courage help them conquer whatever comes their way.

Thesman, Jean. When does the Fun Start? Avon Flare. New York, New York. 1991. p.154.

Teddy's real name is Theodora but she likes her friends to call her Teddy. Her junior year in high school was not the best and she can hardly wait for summer to come. It should be the best summer in a girl's entire life because she is sixteen. The world is working against her having fun and it is all because she saw Zack looking longingly into some strange girl's eyes who is gorgeous. Zack will not even tell Teddy who she is. He seems to think nothing is unusual and expects Teddy to continue their relationship just like before. Of course, what Teddy thinks certainly is not close to Zack's. How can two people still see each other and pretend no one else exists when some mystery person is there?

## FICTION

### SERIES BOOKS

#### Club Sunset Island

Bennett, Cherie. Dixie's First Kiss. Berkley/Splash. New York, New York. 1994. p. 117.

The main characters in this series are Dixie, Tori, and Becky and Allie, who happen to be twins. They have a summer job on Sunset Island as counselors-in-training. Each of the girls come from different parts of the country but they really hit it off and become close friends. Their experiences at camp are often funny but sometimes scary...like the time Tori fell into the pool and almost drowned. As junior counselors they are in charge of little kids and their safety. Unexpected things pop up at the worst times and the girls have to manage themselves in appropriate ways. This sometimes causes inner conflicts.

#### Sunset Island

Bennett, Cherie. Sunset Island. Berkley/Splash. New York, New York. 1991. p.231.

Emma is one of the major characters in this series. She is eighteen and from a very wealthy family. She has had all the advantages a young person could ask for but when she found out about a way to get away from her overbearing and dominating parents, she explores the possibility of getting a summer job. First she would have to go the Au Pair Convention in New York, not too difficult, and then face the process of getting interviewed and selected. Will her expectations be disappointments? Will it really be worth working all summer?

#### Freshman Dorm

Cooney, Linda A. Freshman Dorm. Harper Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1990. p.281.

Going to college has been the goal for three friends, Faith Crowley, Winnie Gottlieb, and K.C. Angeletti. They have everything planned. They will be roommates and remain friends forever. One of the first events of freshman year is "rush week." All the sororities invite the freshman girls to their houses as a way of getting acquainted. Will these three friends be invited to join? Will there be trouble ahead, testing their friendship?

Cooney, Linda A. Freshman Spirit. Harper Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1994. p.313.

The setting is the campus of Springfield University and the time is Halloween. KC is having trouble coping with the death of Brooks because strange things are happening to torment her. Faith has her problems also. Is someone out to destroy her? There are parties at the fraternity houses that seem to be centered around executing outlandish pranks or are they really the target of some weird or unexplainable plot?

#### Hardy Boys

Dixon, Franklin W. The Mystery in the Old Mine. Minstrel Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.149.

Kidnapping brings Frank and Joe to Ridge City, Pennsylvania. Their friend, Garth Trimmer, needs them to help locate his sister, Liz. She has made some powerful enemies in city hall and the local nuclear plant. As Frank and Joe begin their investigation they uncover dirty politics and dirty deals. All clues seem to point them in the direction of an old coal mine. What will they uncover?

#### 18 Pine St.

Johnson, Stacie. The Party. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1992. p.145.

The main characters in this series are Sarah Gordon, Tasha Gordon, Cindy Phillips and Kwame Brown as well as Jennifer Wilson, David Hunter, and April Winter. This group hangs out at a pizzeria called 18 Pine St. owned by Mr. and Mrs. Harris. It's a great place to talk about what is going on at school and to make plans for parties. The party they have recently planned features a rap group and it is going to be at Jennifer's house because her parents are out of town. The party is headed for disaster unless Jennifer can figure out a way to keep things under control.

#### Nancy Drew Files

Keene, Carolyn. An Instinct for Trouble. Archway Paperback. New York, New York. 1994. p.150.

Nancy's boyfriend who has been working on a project at Yellowstone National Park pleads with her to join him as soon as possible. Ned and his group have been researching a small mammal, the marmot, and now someone is stealing them

and putting them on the black market. Who is doing this is one part of the mystery Nancy and Ned want to solve. Who is attacking the researchers is another question they are determined to solve.

Keene, Carolyn. The Picture of Guilt. Archway Paperback.  
New York, New York. 1994. p.150.

Paris is the setting for this intrigue involving the murder of her neighbor's research assistant. Professor Ellen Mathieson has been studying a painter by the name of Josephine Solo. Solo died six months ago and now the research assistant is killed in exactly the same way. This is no coincidence and Nancy is determined to find out why.

#### Nancy Drew & Hardy Boys

Keene, Carolyn. The Paris Connection. Archway Paperback.  
New York, New York. 1990.p.219.

Nancy Drew is use to working on cases that involve pranks and dirty tricks but the case she has just taken in Paris seems to be much more dangerous. A rock star is touring Europe as a charity event but the group is targeted by numerous vivious attacks. Financial records now are missing and the star is facing a scandel. The Hardy brothers, Joe and Frank, are in Paris on a different case. They are at a conference on art thefts. They know that a cat burglar is in the vicinity and are alerted to her modus apprenidi, or her style of stealing.

#### Nancy Drew

Keene, Carolyn. The Search for the Silver Persian.  
Minstrel Book. New York, New York. 1993.  
p.151.

The center of this mystery revolves around the kidnapping of a beautiful Persian cat named Purrfect. The cat belongs to Nancy's friend, Andrea, who has entered her pet into a contest. The outcome may insure Purrfect's future in television commercials for cat food. As simple as the mystery seems it takes unexpected turns and Nancy has to be on her toes to solve this one.

#### The Babysitter's Club

Martin, Ann M. Kristy and the Snobs. Apple Paperbacks.  
New York, New York. 1988. p.153.

After Kristy's mom gets remarried, they move to a new neighborhood where the kids are not friendly at all. They

make fun of how she dresses and they make jokes about Kristy's dog who is going blind. The topic at the Babysitter's Club centers around Kristy's problem and how to deal with a bunch of uncaring snobs!

Martin, Ann M. Mallory Pike #1 Fan. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1994. p. 146.

Mallory gets an opportunity of a lifetime. She is going to be a part-time assistant to Henritta Hayes, a famous children's author whom she has admired for years. Mallory has to research the author's life and write about how the events in her life influence her writing. Mallory is estactic! Never did she dream she would uncover troubling facts about Ms. Hayes that might affect her research and her grade.

Martin, Ann. M. Baby-sitters Winter Vacation. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1989. p.230.

When winter arrives everyone at Stoneybrook Middle School looks forward to the vacation week at Leicester Lodge. The baby-sitters are in for a surprise this year. For example, a busload of small children need baby-sitters. Second, Mary Anne discovers a ghost in the lodge. Worse yet, the snow keeps falling and falling with no end in sight. These are just a few things that are going on. Never a dull moment when the baby-sitters are around!

Martin, Ann M. The Baby-sitters Remember. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1994. p.242.

Why do teachers assign papers to write over summer vacation? And especially one that is so boring..."What I Did This Summer." The friends get together and reminence about things that happened to them when they were younger and all the adventures they have had over the years. Recalling the past sometimes brings laughs but other times tears.

Martin, Ann M. Beware, Dawn!. Apple Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1991. p.142.

In this mystery, Dawn is getting threatening notes and strange phone calls when she is on a job. She is faced with controlling her fears without telling her friends in the club. She does not want anyone to know how out of control she feels because she want to win the Sitter of the Month Contest. To do that her jobs have to run smoothly.

Martin, Ann M. Mary Anne Breaks the Rules. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1994. p.134.

One rule that Mrs. Kuhn tells her babysitters is that no boyfriends are allowed on the job! Mary Anne gets into all sorts of trouble when Mrs. Kuhn finds Logan at the house when she gets home. Is this a misunderstanding or did Mary Anne break a rule?

Martin, Ann. M. Dawn and the Halloween Mystery. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1994. p. 148.

Halloween is a big night for the babysitters and the kids that they babysit for. Dawn is out in her neighborhood when a crime is committed and she is an eye witness! None of the kids can enjoy Halloween until this criminal is caught. Can the baby-sitters solve this mystery before trick or treat is finally cancelled?

### Sweet Valley High

Pascal, Francine. Playing With Fire. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1983. p.149.

Jessica wants Bruce Patman who is the most popular guy at school. Jessica's world is revolving around Bruce so much that her twin sister, Elizabeth becomes concerned. Bruce is not to be trusted as far as Elizabeth is concerned and she is afraid Jessica will not be able to manage this relationship.

Pascal, Francine. Super Star, Bruce's Story. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1990. p.212.

Bruce Patman is arrogant, self-centered but extremely handsome. His cousin, Roger, is living with the Patman family and is totally opposite from Bruce. The tension between the two boys mounts when their grandfather decides to create a contest between them. The reward? Whoever wins will inherit their grandfather's estate worth millions. How far will Bruce go to insure his winning?

Pascal, Francine. Super Thriller Double Jeopardy. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1987. p.214.

Being reporters for their local newspapers leads Jessica and Elizabeth into witnessing a murder. The police have arrested a friend of their brother's. They know it is not Adam because they saw the killer's face. Can they find the killer before the killer finds them? Or are they certain that they have identified the right person?

Pascal, Francine. Todd's Story. Bantam Books. New York,  
New York. 1992. p.215.

The past catches up with Todd when he runs into a guy he knows was in jail. Kevin blames Todd for contributing to his conviction and Todd thinks he will try to get revenge. Todd is never himself when Kevin is around and the tension mounts when new crimes start hitting Sweet Valley. How long can Todd keep the secret about Kevin?

Pascal, Francine. Lila's Story. Bantam Books. New York,  
New York. 1989. p.214.

The rich Sweet Valley High student, Lila Fowler, has more money to spend, more clothes to wear, and more of everything than any other girl in school. Yet when her father decides to bring his girlfriend, Joan, and her daughter, Jacqueline, in to live at their mansion, Lila gets upset. She feels they are taking over. If that is not enough, Mr. Fowler announces that he and Joan are planning to get married. Now Lila wants to figure out a way to stop this from happening.

### **Sweet Valley University**

Pascal, Francine. College Girls. Bantam Books, New York,  
New York. 1993. p.235.

The twins, Jessica and Elizabeth Wakefield, have graduated from high school and are now entering their freshman year of college. Dreams of being independent and free are becoming a reality. Jessica's boyfriend from high school is there as is Enid Rollins, a supposed friend of Elizabeth's. University life is exciting but everything has its ups and downs as the twins are about to find out.

### **The 3 Investigators**

Stine, Megan, & H. William. Long Shot. Borzoi Sprinter.  
New York, New York. 1990. p.143.

One of the Three Investigators is Pete Crenshaw. He is also the high school basketball star. The other part of the investigators includes Bob and Jupe. The setting is in Rocky Beach, California where the friends enjoy helping people who have big problems. In this episode, Pete is approached by a stranger to get him to join a play-to-pay college team. They are faced with possible crimes involving sports on campus and their time is limited.

## Sweet Valley Twins and Friends

Suzanne, Jamie. Steven's Enemy. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.135.

Steven Wakefield is the older brother of Elizabeth and Jessica who are identical twins. Trouble begins when a rivalry between Stephen and Ben Oliver increases. First Ben wins a position on the basketball team and then he gets elected as class treasurer, knocking Stephen out. Nothing is worse than to lose to a dweeb, so thinks Stephen. But school things do not compare to things that happen in the family. Stephen finds out Jessica really likes Ben and then the fireworks start!

Suzanne, Jamie. Amy's Secret Sister. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.134.

Two strong emotions hit Amy Sutton when she finds out that she has a sister she has never known, never heard of, or never realized her father had been married to some other person! Excitement and anxiety! She wants to meet her and yet at the same time she worries about it. What does Amy do to calm down? Can she accept a sister when she has been the only child for so long? Is this grief?

Suzanne, Jamie. The Curse of the Ruby Necklace. Bantam Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.183.

Can the spirit of someone dead speak to someone who is living? Jessica wonders if this is possible when she finds a necklace that belonged to Lillian Keller, puts it on, and then has a nightmare about how Lillian died. Will the spirit keep communicating more details to Jessica about her death?

## Star Trek, the Next Generation

Vornholt, John. Capture the Flag. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.114.

Geordi is in his first year at the Starfleet Academy and his blindness has never been a handicap to him because of the VISOR he wears. Unfortunately his peers regard him with little respect until he defeats Pettey in an elimination game. The conflict between the two cadets comes to a head when Geordi and his team go up against the ruthless Pettey. How is the conflict going to be resolved without harm coming to Geordi and company?



## FICTION

### SPORTS

Alman, Russell. The Kid Can't Miss. Avon Flare, N.Y.,  
N.Y., 1992. p.220.

Sheffield Junior High has a basketball record that is hard to beat. They are the biggest LOSERS in basketball history.

BUT things begin to change miraculously. Some pint-size player sails all over the court sinking every shot he makes and the team is headed for the championship.

How can this be? What is going on?

Brooks, Bruce. The Moves Make the Man. Harper-Keypoint.  
New York, New York. 1984. p. 252.

Jayfox is the first black basketball player at school. He knows every move there is but when he attempts to teach Bix some of his moves on and off the court, the question arises, "When you play, do you play straight up or do you fake it?"

Christopher, Matt. The Great Quarterback Switch. Little,  
Brown and Company. Boston. 1984. p.97.

Can twins communicate by using ESP? Micheal and Tom Curtis play football but Micheal is on the sidelines because he was in a tragic accident. During a game Micheal concentrates on a play that he thinks can win the game and suddenly, his twin brother calls the exact play. When they discover this power of thought they begin to experiment with ESP in subsequent games?

What will be the outcome of their experiment? Will they win? Or will they discover even more startling results?

Deuker, Carl. Heart of a Champion. Avon Flare. New York,  
New York. 1994. p.168.

What makes a person a champion? Hard work, desire, and dedication. Seth Barham and Jimmy are best friends because they share a common interest...BASEBALL! Seth's desire to be on the varsity squad motivates him to work hard. Jimmy has natural ability and he may even make the majors. Their friendship overcomes their disappointments and personal conflicts on and off the field. This is one friendship that will not end.

Drumtra, Stacy. Face-Off. Avon Flare. New York, New York.  
1992. p.117

Hockey is a tough sport but Brad and T.J. who are twins are competing for more than a win of a game. Brad wants all the attention from school friends and from a special young girl who happens to be his brother's girlfriend. A nightmare begins when the two begin this final competition on the ice.

Is blood thicker than water? Meaning will the brothers overcome the passionate competition that arises between them or will they end up hurting each other?

Duder, Tessa. In Lane Three, Alex Archer. Bantam Books.  
New York, New York. 1987. p. 259.

Alex Archer, 15, wants to win a gold medal at the next Olympics. Her girlfriend and Maggie, another tough swimming competitor, what the same thing. Alex wants to beat Maggie which presents her with another problem. BUT worst yet Alex is faced with even something more difficult.... her boyfriend is in a bad accident.

How is Alex going to cope with everything in her personal life and still go to the Olympics and win a medal?

Dygaard, Thomas. Point Spread. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1990. p.192.

Lou Powers plays football and is an All-American linebacker. Success has followed him throughout his high school and college career and it looks as if the pros will be seeking him. Unfortunately, an incident involving a man giving him an envelope filled with money interrupts his path to the pros. Terrified of a scandal he tries to resolve this incident.

What alternatives can Lou take? Is keeping silent a choice? What can he do?

Dygaard, Thomas. Winning Kicker. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1990. p. 190.

Winning a championship in high school football is every football team's dream. The Hornets have not been defeated and the championship is getting closer. Things just never remain simple unfortunately because a placekicker joins the team who just happens to be a GIRL!

Now the team can hardly practice without being distracted by the publicity the press is giving them.

How can a team concentrate with reporters asking questions, taking incessant pictures, and just being a pest?

Dygard, Thomas. Outside Shooter. Puffin Books. New York,  
New York. 1991. p.189.

Basketball forward, Bobby Haggard, is the key to winning the championship for the Bulldogs. His talent for making baskets from anywhere on the court and his agile and quick hands make him an indispensable member of the team. Fans love him but his teammates do not. To them he is nothing but trouble and this tension is about ready to explode.

Attitudes can create a monster on the court. How can this team overcome Bobby's suspension from school the night before the most important game of the season?

Dygard, Thomas. Rebound Caper Puffin Books. New York, New York.1992. p.164.

Everyone has met a class clown sometime during their school years. Gary Whipple is a practical joker and decides that since he got suspended from the basketball team, he can outwit the coach and still play basketball by joining the girl's basketball team. This "playing around" ends up with Gary in the hot seat. Instead of being popular he finds himself in dutch with his girlfriend and even the school board has gotten into the act.

In an attempt to make history he makes a whole lot of trouble for himself as well as both the boy's and girl's basketball teams.

How is he going to get out of this mess?

Dygard, Thomas. Halfback Tough. Puffin Books. New York, New York. 1989. p. 210.

Getting suspended from the basketball team does not stop Gary Whipple. What can he do?

Simple! He joins the girl's basketball team! He really believes this will make him the funniest schemer ever at his school but things never turn out like you want them to.

What possibly can happen to squelch Gary's plan?

Fertlanger, Rusty. Lady's Man. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1988. p. 133.

What??? A boy against a girl in a wrestling match?

Rusty is faced with a terrible situation. He has to go up against Susan in an upcoming match and he wants to forfeit it.

How can he let the team down with a forfeit?

Worse yet....what will happen if she wins? How can he face possible humiliation and live it down?

Klass, David. Wrestling with Honor. Scholastic. New York, New York. 1989. p. 200.

Ron Woods is the wrestling captain and is the straightest guy in school. Igor, his wrestling rival, is one of his major problems until results from a drug test come back as positive. He cannot figure out what has happened and he refuses to retake the test. The entire school begins to speculate about his guilt or innocence.

Should he give in to the pressures of his coach and his team?

Should he stand firm and should he retake the test?

Lipsyte, Robert. The Contender. Harper Keypoint. New York, New York. 1987. p.166.

After dropping out of school, Alfred sees his life slowly going nowhere. With nothing to do, he decides to drop by the boxing club in Harlem. His life starts to take a turn for the better when he learns more than good boxing techniques.

Myers, Walter Dean. Hoops. Laurel-Leaf. New York, New York. 1981. p.183.

The setting is on the streets of Harlem where playing basketball is a way to escape the ugliness of the streets. It is also a way of competing against some of the toughest players in the city. Lonnie Jackson, seventeen, is so good that people come from all around just to see him practice. He has what it takes to be a professional player but his coach knows all the dangers that are linked with the pressure of winning. Crooked games happen. Gambling on championships happen. The coach is approached by bettors. Will he let his team lose for material profit? In the end, what does matter to a player and a coach?

Scholz, Jackson. Fielder from Nowhere. Beechtree. 1993. p. 247.

Ken goes to baseball try-outs to receive nothing but jeers from the players. They boo him but he goes up to bat and everyone is suddenly quiet. He is incredibly good.

There is only one minor problem. Ken has a secret that he has sworn never to reveal. He also refuses to allow this to interfere with his playing ball.

Can he play all season without this secret pulling him down? What is stronger? His love for baseball or his desire to hide his secret?

Slote, Alfred. Rabbit Ears. Harper Trophy. New York, New York. 1982. p.110.

Tip wants to become a top pitcher for his baseball team but the jeers of the opposing team are hard for him to ignore. Once the rival teams discover this they try to rattle him.

How long is he going to last as the team's pitcher?

How is he going to overcome this problem?

Soto, Gary. Taking Sides. Harcourt/Brace Jovanovich. San Diego. 1991. p. 135.

Switching schools for a guy who plays sports is the problem Lincoln Mendoza is faced with. He use to to play with teammates who could not afford uniforms much less new basketball shoes and here he is sporting Air Jordans and is hanging with a more affluent crowd.

Moving up in the world often has drawbacks.

Lincoln has to figure out a way to keep his old friends as well as his new ones.

## FICTION

### SUSPENSE/THRILLER

Avi. Something Upstairs. Avon Flare Books. New York, New York. 1990. p. 116.

Kenny Huldorf was not happy when his parents told him they would be moving to Providence, Rhode Island. California was a great place to live because of the climate and now he would be in a place that seemed to him to be always cold.

When he first saw his new home, he was even more unhappy. It had been built in 1789! The rooms seemed strangely arranged. But stranger yet was the small room off of his bedroom. There was a stain on the floor that seemed to have been there forever. The stain was not just an ordinary stain. He thought he saw two hands reaching up from the floor in an effort to pull itself out of the floor. Was this some kind of dream or nightmare? Is there such a thing as a ghost that is trying to communicate with Kenny?

Avi. Devil's Race. Avon Flare. New York, New York. 1982. p. 118.

John Proud is involved in a history project that details his family tree. During his research he finds his great-great-grandfather and he have something in common. His spirit has returned to the present and becomes directly involved in John's life. The spirit is so powerful that John is being led into a horrifying experience. How can he get control of himself and thwart any power of suggestion from the past?

Cooney, Caroline B. The Snow. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. p. 210.

During the school year, Christina and her four friends board at Mr. and Mrs. Shevvington's Inn. Mr. Shevvington is the principal at the high school and his wife teaches English. Strange and unexplainable things start to happen at the inn. Unfortunately no one will believe Christina and they dismiss her active imagination. One by one Christina's friends are becoming victims of some ruling evil that exists in the inn. She is certain she will be the next!

Cusick, Richie Tankersley. Teacher's Pet. Scholastic. New York, New York. 1990. p. 214.

Kate Rawlins is a talented writer. She has just won a contest for fiction. She and her English teacher attend a

writing conference the a camp owned by William Drewe, a well known writer. There she meets Denzil, Tawney, and the camp's pet cat, Pet. This cat is as strange as the events that take place and Kate is right in the thick of things.

Daniel, Kate. Babysitter Nightmare. Part 11. Harper Paperbacks. New York, New York. 1994. p.214.

While Karin is babysitting, some one throws mud clods at the window and Karin yells out that she is going to call the police. She does just that but after the police look around, they are unable to find any clues. The next time the stalker gets more aggressive and attacks her. Still no clues as to his identity. Lurking in the shadows he watches and waits for the next chance to remove a babysitter for good. Why does he have such revengeful feelings toward girls who babysit? Will Karin be next?

Doyle, Debra, and MacDonald, James. Bad Blood. Berkley Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.201.

Mr. Castillo, the science teacher, takes his Ecology class on a backpacking trip that turns out to be a nightmare. Before nightfall campers always build a fire to discourage any wild animal from entering into camp. Even with this being done, a wild grey wolf attacks the camp on the first night. The moon is full and it seems easy enough to follow the tracks but events tha follow are not what one might expect. Some of these campers are not what they appear to be? What secret does Mr. Castillo have? Is anyone else aware of the peculiar events that are lurking in the dark?

Duncan, Lois. Don't Look Behind You. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1990. p.179.

The Federal Witness Program exist for the protection of people who testify at a trial against a person or persons who have been charged with a federal crime.

This is a story about April Corrigan and her family who become a pat of this program when someone attempts to kill her father while he is testifying during a trial. Now the family has to chang their name, their home, and essentially their entire life in order to escape another attempt on her father's life. How is this going to affect them? Will they ever be able to return to a normal life or go back to the home and friends before all this started?

Hastings, Beverly. Home Before Dark. Berkley Books. New York, New York. 1993. p. 217.

Sara Langdon has to leave Los Angelos to spend an entire year with her Aunt Liz and Uncle Ted. She has not

seen them since she was a little girl and her memories of Ohio are just at vague. However, when she arrives she is amazed how beautiful the house is compared to what she remembered. They welcome her. She makes friends easily and even has a boyfriend within a short time. This quiet community is riveted by someone who lurks around after dark choosing his victims carefully. No one dares being out after the sun sets unless they are crazy. Who is this stalker and how can he be stopped? Will Sara be his next?

Hoh, Diane. Nightmare Hall, Last Breath. Scholastic, Inc. 1994. New York, New York. p.243.

Cassidy Kirk loves her life at Salem University. She and room mates are always busy but an asthma attack send Cassidy to the clinic. With her medication she is sent back to her dorm and is directed to stay in and recuperate for a few days. She starts to tell her friends things she sees. They believe it is her imagination but after awhile they wonder if she might be losing her mind. Accidents begin and there are no reasonable explanations. How can the fall down the steps be explained? Who would want Cassidy dead?

Kehent, Peg. Terror At the Zoo. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1993. p. 123.

Ellen Streater has discovered a way of communicating with her dog, Prince. She concentrates on a message and without one word, the dog acts on the command.

Ellen and her brother, Cory, go to the zoo and discover that someone is following them. The stalker intends to kidnap them and demand a ransom. Ellen is banking on her mental powers to communicate with the animals at the zoo to get them out of this predicament.

Will she succeed? Can she find a way to get the animals to understand the danger she and her brother are in? Will Prince come to her aid somehow?

Keene, Carolyn. Hollywood Horror. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.216.

Nancy Drew teams up again with the Hardy Boys to solve a case of a television star being stalked. Threats are also being thrown at the producer of a popular television show and its high tech theme park. There is more action in Hollywood to keep Nancy, Joe, and Frank busy every minute of the day. Danger seems to follow them everywhere.

Littke, Lael. Prom Dress. Scholastice, Inc. New York, New York. 1989. p.167.

While at her boss's house, Robin finds a beautiful prom



dress. Unknown to her are the magnetic powers this dress has over anyone who wears it. They will be whirled into a horrifying nightmare but its beauty is captivating. First Robin wears it and then Felicia. Next is Nicole and each girls is swept under its power and is faced with an event that changes their lives.

Nixon, Joan Lowery. The Seance. Dell Books. New York, New York. 1992. p. 172.

A group of friends go to a seance out of curiosity. But their curiosity turns into pure fear when the lights are out and Sara starts to scream. When the lights come back on, Sara is no where to be found. Where could she be? Is it just some kind of trick to make the group believe in the supernatural or is some evil spirit taking over the group because they are coming too close to a discovery? Will someone else find the same fate as Sara?

Nixon, Joan Lowery. The Other Side of Dark. Laurel-Leaf Books. New York, New York. 1986. p.185.

After being in a coma for four years, Stacy wakes up in the hospital confused about who she is. She was thirteen when the accident happened and now at seventeen she does not recognize herself. Doctors and family reassure her that she really is Stacy and that they are there to help her through this difficult time. Slowly memories start to come back. Memories of her mother being shot. Memories of being the only one who witnessed the shooting. The face she saw is cloudy. She knows this but the killer does not. Now he wants to make sure she will never know his identity. And that means only one thing. Get Stacy!

Pike, Christopher. Remember Me. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1989. p. 230.

Shari Cooper is dead. The police think it is a suicide but is it? Her spirit is determined to find the person and in this riveting tale of the supernatural Shari's spirit enters into an investigation that allows her to spy on her friends and even permits her to enter into their dreams. It is there that she discovers a nightmare that is the key to her own death.

Pike, Christopher. Spellbound. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1988. p.211.

In a small town of Timber, Wyoming, a young seventeen year old girl, Karen Holly, dies as a result of a bear attack. She and her boyfriend had hiked up to Snake River

Trail to see Crystal Falls in the moonlight. This is the place the attack on them happens. However, Jason escapes serious injuries but Karen lies lifeless. Jason goes for help and when the police and Jason return, Sara's body is not there.....it is over three hundred yards away near the H parking lot. Is Jason not telling the truth? If so, what is he hiding? None of her friends are satisfied with the reports so they decide to return to the scene of the crime and find out for themselves. What do they find? Death!

Pike, Christopher. The Midnight Club. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.213.

The Midnight Club is a club that terminally ill kids have formed. They meet secretly every night at midnight to share their feelings and thoughts about everything. They even engage in telling tales, some are true and others are not. They make a pledge that whoever dies first will try to contact the living from the grave. Can the spirit reach out of the grave and communicate somehow?

Pike, Christopher. The Last Vampire 2. Pocket Books, New York, New York. p. 196.

Are there vampires? No such thing? Well, Alisa Perne can answer those questions because Alise is really Sita, a five thousand year old vampire. She thinks that she and Ray are the only vampires who are left in the world until she hears some distressing news about some murders that have taken place in Los Angeles that sound very suspicious. She is determined to find out about them and do something to stop the murders from continuing.

Stine, R. L. Goosebumps. Why I'm Afraid of Bees. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1994. p.117.

Gary Lutz loves his computer because it is his only friend. Experimenting is a favorite pastime of his and one of his discoveries is how to exchange his body with someone else who is his same age. Unfortunately something goes haywire and during the transmission he finds himself in the body of a .....How is he going to find anyone to help him out of this predicament?

Stine, R.L., Attack of the Mutant. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1994. p.117.

The comic book collection that Skipper Matthews has amassed leaves his friends envious. Skipper's favorite is The Masked Mutant. One day when he is wondering around the city he finds he finds himself in a strange part of town.

He does not recognize the street. But the building that he stops in front of looks just like the building that is in the comic books. Actually he looks twice because this building is just like the Mutuant's secret headquarters. Is this real he thinks? Has he read so much about this character that his imagination is playing tricks on him or is it possible that The Mutant really exists?

Stine, R.L. Goosebumps, Welcome to Camp Nightmare. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1993. p.112.

Camp Nightmoon turns into camp nightmare when strange looking wild animals attack the arrival of the new campers on the first night. These creatures are three feet tall as they stand on their hind legs, they are snarling with needle-like teeth that look like daggers, and are leering at the kids with red eyes set in elongated faces. Are these campers really going to make it through the weeks that are facing them? Is this just some kind of theatrical production to welcome them? Or is something really evil going on at the camp?

Stine, R.L. Fear Street. The Mind Reader. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.148.

Unexplainable things begin to happen to Ellie Anderson when she sees things no one else sees. These visions lead her to the discovery of a girl's body that has been dead for two years. Now the question is can she use her mental powers to find the killer before he finds her?

Stine, R.L. Fear Street. The First Horror. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1994. p.148.

Moving to a new neighborhood is often exciting but to move into a house that has been vacant for over thirty years on Fear Street is certainly nothing the twins, Cathy and Kody Frasier, are thrilled about. This house has a history that has kept everyone away from it. What is the terrible truth surrounding 99 Fear Street?

Stine, R.L. Beach House. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1992. p. 210.

This story has two separate time periods, the summer of 1956 and the present time. During the summer of 1956 a group of young girls and boys go to Dunehampton to enjoy the beach but the fun stops when a killer crashes upon their scene. How do the past events link to the present day? Will the secrets from the past surface? Or are there clues in the old beach house that can answer questions about the past?

Stine, R.L. The Overnight. Pocket Books. New York, New York. 1989. p.148.

The Outdoors Club decide to spend the night without their school advisor on Fear Island. One of the members, Della O'Conner, gets lost and a stranger suddenly appears. Captured by his threats leads her to do something she would never ordinarily do. Now the group is forced into pledging silence about the incident in order that no one will ever find out the truth. But someone on the outside knows what Della did and the group is faced with more threats. Do they return to the island? Do they keep their silence? How is it that this person knows what happened that night?

Stine, R.L. I Saw You That Night. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York, 1994. p.179.

Roxie always looks forward to summer vacation but things start going wrong when she decides she wants to get Lee away from Ursela. Her plan is to get into Lee's house and take pictures of Lee's bedroom. This certainly will convince Ursela that Roxie has been with him. While she is secretly in his bedroom, she hears someone come into the house downstairs and is convinced she will be caught. How will she get out without being detected? Whose voices are arguing so violently? Is she going to witness something she never bargained for? Or is the victim going to be her?

Stine, R.L. The Babysitter 11. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1991. p.166.

Jenny still babysits even though she has had some horrible experiences in the past. The crazy guy who had been after her is no longer around so she feels safe again. As time has gone by, those memories have begun to fade so out Jenny goes to another night of babysitting. When the phone rings and she says hello, everything seems to stop. It is a voice from the past. It is the voice from the past. The voice she never thought she would hear again. Fear grips her stomach and twists it like a pretzel.

Taylor, Lisa. All on a Winter's Day. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1990. p. 138.

Lisa and Hugh, her little brother, go to bed as usual and wake up as usual. But when they wake up the house is strange just as everything in the house is strange. The furniture has been moved around and out of nowhere two children the same age as Lisa and Hugh appear mysteriously. Who are these children? Why are they in Lisa and Hugh's house?

## NON-FICTION

### BIOGRAPHY - FAMOUS PEOPLE

Blackstone, Harry. My Life as a Magician. Minstrel Book.  
New York, New York. 1992. p.123.

Harry Blackstone was destined to be a magician because his father was a very famous magician. As a young child, Harry became a part of his father's act. Watching rabbits vanish, ladies float in mid-air, and seeing drawings of animals come alive right off the canvass were some of the illusions Harry saw while touring the cities with his father and mother. The art of illusions was a part of his heritage. Read about the secrets that made him made him successful. Know tips on how to become a magician!

Cox, Clinton. Undying Glory. Scholastic, Inc. New York,  
New York. 1991. p.153.

Abraham Lincoln said, "The war against the south could not have been won had it not been for the aid of black freed men." From age sixteen to forty, the black farmers, craftsman, and laborers came from all over the United States to form the 54th Regiment of Massachuettes, known as the "Glory" regiment.

Davidson, Margaret. Helen Keller's Teacher. Scholastic,  
Inc. New York, New York. 1965. p.153.

Ann Sullivan grew up in a world that she only half-saw. Her eye sight was as poor as her surroundings. Even so, this young girl grew up to be one of the most famous teachers in history, Helen Keller's teacher! The courage and fortitude of both women are touching to read. Find out how they overcame the adversity of blindness and how they made their lives fulfilling.

Kraske, Robert. Harry Houdini, Master of Magic.  
Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1973.  
p.72.

Houdini was a name that was known in almost every household. When he performed, the crowds were huge. Why? No one had ever seen a person handcuffed under water and then escape to tell about it. How did he accomplish his amazing escapes? Were they only illusions?

Lauber, Patricia. The Story of Amelia Earhart. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1988. p.101.

Early in the twentieth century, the airplane was still a marvel. Most people were amazed at the craft and what it could do. A young woman, Amelia Earhart, was even more amazing when she announced that she would fly around the world. Believers prayed for her success. Others never thought it possible. Read and discover her amazing journeys in the air.

Levine, Ellen. Ready, Aim, Fire! The Real Adventures of Annie Oakley. Scholastic, Inc, New York, New York. 1989. p. 132.

Back in the 1800's women were tough because they knew how to survive. They could do most anything but it was very unusual for a woman to be a sharpshooter. How did the young Ohio born girl come to be a sharpshooter in a circus? What kind of life did this young woman have touring in a circus?

McCunn, Lum. Sole Survivor. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1985. p.259.

World War 11 created many heros and heroines. This is a story about a young boy who survived the sinking of the ship he was on by a German U-boat. The things that happened during his 133 days on a make-shift raft are hard to believe. His name can be found in the Guinness World Record for the person who survived the sea for the longest period of time.

Meigs, Cornelia. Invincible Louisa. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1933. p.240.

This is the story of the author of Little Women. A close look at her real life from the time she was a tomboy to the time when she was a most successful writer gives the reader an insight of life as a successful female writer in the 1800's.

Sobol, Donald. The Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1961. p.128.

Orville and Wilbur Wright lived in Dayton, Ohio. They were bicycle salesmen but their dreams were centered around flying. The attempts they made to get something to stay in the air seemed to run into one problem after another. One

reason was they ran out of money. Did that stop them? No, they were determined and this is the story about their persistence and their ingenuity in creating the wonder machine - the airplane!

Sterling, Dorothy. The Story of Harriet Tubman, Freedom Train. Scholastic, Inc. New York, New York. 1954. p.191.

As a young girl Harriet Tubman promised herself that she would some day be free from slavery. The famous "Underground Railroad" was her escape route but to even get out of her southern environment would take meticulous planning. Danger would always be lurking close by.

## NON-FICTION

### SPORTS

Cohen, Neil. Shaquille O'Neil. Bantam Books. New York.  
New York. p.103.

Shaquille O'Neil, the 7 foot player for the NBA, is amazing to watch as he runs, jumps, and shoots the ball. This biography of Shaquille presents a picture of his life before the pros and also tells the reader about some of his personal likes and dislikes.

Find out what size shoe he wears! And why he couldn't dunk when he was 6 foot 7 inches tall! How did he get his unusual name and what it means!

Meet the Shaq by reading all about him!

Cohen, Neil. Head to Head Basketball- Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning. Bantam Books. New York,  
New York. 1994.p.111.

Read the inside story on two great basketball superstars. Find out about what these two players were like as they grow up and before they became famous. Included are stats and on court photos.

Gutman,Bill. Magic Johnson, Hero On and Off Court. The Millbrook Press. Brookfield,  
Connecticut.1992. p.42.

Magic Johnson, the All- American from Michigan State, joins the Los Angeles Lakers in 1979. This account of his career in basketball includes exciting photographs of Magic and his skills during play. His courage on the court leads him to success as a player as hepling him face the most difficult challenge of his life when he finds that he is HIV positive.

Take a close look at a man who is more than a basketball hero and try to find his way of remaining a succesful individual.

Morgan, Terri and Thaler, Shmuel. Chris Mullin. Lerner Publications Company. Minneapolis. 1994.  
p.64.

This is a biography of the Golden State Warriors player,Chris Mullin. Just at the time when he seemed to be heading for NBA stardom, drinking became more important to him than his career in basketball. With support from those close to him, he found a way to turn around his life.



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Rekela, George R., Hakeem Olajuwon. Lerner Publications Company. Minneapolis. 1994. p.64.

Hakeem's homeland of Nigeria on the continent of Africa was vastly different from America. The seven foot center for the Houston Rockets grew up playing soccer and did not intend to play basketball until his height at age sixteen was 6 foot 9 inches and still growing.

This biography takes a close look at Hakeem and his journey from Nigeria to Houston where fame has been a close friend.

Reiser,Howard. Barry Sanders, Lion with a Quiet Roar. Children's Press. Chicago. 1993. p.48.

This biography about Barry Sanders shows great photographs of the famed football star in action. The author presents an overview of his exceptional talent as a running back starting with his teen years.