
Appelt, Kathi. *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*. Atheneum, 2013. Twelve-year-old Chap Brayburn, ancient Sugar Man, and his raccoon-brother Swamp Scouts Bingo and J’miah try to save Bayou Tourterelle from feral pigs Clydine and Buzzy, greedy Sunny Boy Beaucoup, and world-class alligator wrestler and would-be land developer Jaeger Stitch in this hilarious tall tale from a Texas swamp.

Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan*. Harper, 2012. When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*. Holt/Christy Ottaviano, 2008. Marvin, a beetle, and his family live in the home of eleven-year-old James and his family. When James’ birthday party fails miserably, Marvin surprises James with an elaborately intricate pen and ink drawing Marvin has created. Trouble begins when the drawing is mistaken for James’ work, which sets off action that leads to a fast-paced mystery featuring an unlikely friendship, the discovery of art forgery, and thievery.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Shines My Shoes*. Dial Books, 2009. Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. *Sequel*

Colfer, Eoin. *The Atlantis Complex*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. When an army of fairy space probes programmed to destroy Atlantis returns to Earth, Artemis Fowl attempts to stop the destruction of the city while dealing with his own delusional and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Series

Creech, Sharon. *The Great Unexpected*. Joanna Cotler, 2012. Orphans Naomi and Lizzie are best friends, but Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens, and she knows all the peculiar people in town. Into their lives drops the strangely charming Finn boy. Across the sea, on a grand estate in Ireland, an elderly lady has a plan. These two worlds weave together with the great unexpected gifts of love and forgiveness.

Delano, Marfe Ferguson. *Helen’s Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher*. National Geographic, 2008. Annie Sullivan grew up in extreme poverty with her own eye problems. Her first and only job was teaching Helen Keller how to “see” despite the fact that she was blind, deaf, and mute.

Feldman, Jody. *The Gollywhopper Games*. Greenwillow, 2008. When the Golly Toy & Game Company announces the Gollywhopper Games, Gil Goodson wants to be the lucky winner; this could be the perfect opportunity for his family to move away from Orchard Heights. Can he solve the puzzles and complete the stunts? This may remind you of a modern day *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*!

Flanagan, John. *The Royal Ranger*. Philomel, 2013. Will Treaty is a shell of his former self, and his first apprentice may be the only one who can save him. Series


Hale, Shannon. *Rapunzel’s Revenge*. Bloomsbury, 2008. In this graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home. She is able to escape and, with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land and find her true mother.
Hannigan, Katherine. *True (...Sort Of)*. Greenwillow, 2011. For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why. Her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good -- and happy -- again.

Kehret, Peg. *Ghost Dog Secrets*. Dutton, 2010. Sixth-grader Rusty is determined to help an injured dog that is chained outdoors in frigid weather with no food, water, or shelter. He calls animal control and takes matters into his own hands, aided by his best friend and a ghost collie that leads Rusty to an even deeper secret.

Kelly, Lynne. *Chained*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. To work off a family debt, ten-year-old Hastin leaves his desert village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper; but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.

Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman: Words for America*. Scholastic, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation’s grief after Lincoln’s assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.

Kirby, Matthew J. *Icefall*. Scholastic, 2011. Princess Solveig and her army are trapped in a hidden fortress between towering mountains and a frozen fjord. As they await news of the king’s victory and for the all-encompassing ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.


Magnin, Joyce. *Cake*. Zonderkidz, 2012. Wilma Sue is wary of the eccentric sisters, Ruth and Naomi, at her new foster home, but wonders if she might have a true home with them, baking and delivering cakes and tending their chickens, until she is implicated in a series of neighborhood crimes.

Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays*. Scholastic, 2009. Best friends since their mothers met at the hospital when they were born, Amanda and Leo always celebrate their birthdays together. However, now that they are turning 11, they are no longer speaking to each other and everything is not as normal as it may appear. This is one birthday that does not seem to end!

Messner, Kate. *Hide and Seek*. Scholastic, 2013. For five hundred years the Jaguar Cup, sacred to the Silver Jaguar Society, was hidden in a cave on the coast of Costa Rica--so when a fake copy shows up on display in America, it is up to Jose, Anna, and Henry, junior members of the society, to travel to Costa Rica and rescue the real cup from thieves. Series

O'Connell, Caitlin and Donna M. Jackson. *The Elephant Scientist*. Houghton Mifflin, 2011. While on assignment to study elephants in Nambia, scientist Caitlin O’Connell uncovers fascinating new information about elephant communication. Beautiful photographs of the African landscape and elephants along with the story of a woman’s journey to find her professional calling make this a fascinating read.


O’Connor, George. *Hera, the Goddess and Her Glory*. First Second, 2011. Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. Series

Palacio, R.J. *Wonder*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2012. Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, where he endures the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.
Paterson, Katherine and John. *The Flint Heart: A Fairy Story*. Candlewick, 2011. A magical amulet, created by a Stone Age magic man for an ambitious individual wishing to take control of his tribe, brings power and despair to those who touch it. When the amulet reemerges, Charles and his sister Unity must find a way to rescue the humans, fairies, and animals from the mysterious object.

Perl, Erica S. *Aces Wild*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Eleven-year-old Zelly Fried’s parents will not allow her to have a slumber party until she teaches her mischievous puppy, Ace, to behave, but with Grandpa Ace around nothing is ever simple.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. Blue Sky Press, 2009. Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Pine Swamp, Maine, and sets out to find his beloved older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. Newbery Honor, 2010

Potter, Ellen. *The Humming Room*. Feiwel and Friends, 2012. Twelve-year-old orphan Roo Fanshaw is sent to live with an uncle she never knew in a largely uninhabited mansion on Cough Rock Island and discovers a wild river boy, an invalid cousin, and the mysteries of a hidden garden.

Riordan, Rick. *The Lost Hero*. Disney-Hyperion, 2010. Jason, Piper, and Leo, three students from a school for “bad kids," find themselves at Camp Half-Blood, where they learn that they are demigods and begin a quest to free Hera, who has been imprisoned by Mother Earth herself. *Series*

Ross, Stewart. *Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way By Land, Sea, and Air*. Candlewick, 2011. Fourteen amazing journeys by explorers throughout history and the methods they used by land, sea, and sky to find their way. Includes unfolding cross sections of vessels.

Say, Allen. *Drawing from Memory*. Scholastic, 2011. Using watercolor paintings, original cartoons, vintage photographs, and maps, Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan’s leading cartoonist.

Scattergood, Augusta. *Glory Be*. Scholastic, 2012. In the summer of 1964 as she is about to turn twelve, Glory’s town of Hanging Moss, Mississippi, is beset by racial tension when town leaders close her beloved public pool rather than desegregate it. Based on real-life events, this is a story of family, friendship, and some of life’s tough choices.

Selfors, Suzanne. *The Sasquatch Escape*. Little, Brown, 2013. Spending the summer in his grandfather’s rundown town, ten-year-old Ben meets an adventurous local girl and together they learn that the town’s veterinarian runs a secret hospital for imaginary creatures.

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures*. Scholastic, 2011. Rose and Ben are deaf children living fifty years and worlds apart, yet both marvel and connect with the world around them. The American Museum of Natural History links their separate stories – one narrated in text and the other through cinematic illustrations.

Sherry, Maureen. *Walls Within Walls*. Katherine Tegen, 2010. When the Smithfork family moves into a lavish Manhattan apartment building, they discover clues to a decades-old mystery hidden behind the walls of their new home.

Snicket, Lemony. *“Who Could That Be at This Hour?”*. Little, Brown, 2012. Thirteen-year-old Lemony Snicket begins his apprenticeship with S. Theodora Markson of the secretive V.F.D. in the tiny dot of a town called Stain’d By The Sea, where he helps investigate the theft of a statue.


Standiford, Natalie. *The Secret Tree*. Scholastic, 2012. Sixth-graders Minty and her new friend Raymond discover a tree with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of the people in their neighborhood. While watching their neighbors to solve the mysteries of the secrets and break a curse, the friends will have to work through some of their own secrets as well.
Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. Wendy Lamb, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980’s television game show “The $20,000 Pyramid,” a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seem to defy laws of time and space. Newbery Award, 2010

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Extraordinary Education of Nicholas Benedict*. Little, Brown, 2012. Nine-year-old Nicholas Benedict is moved to one more orphanage: this one filled with nasty bullies who target him, a suspicious orphanage director, and a mystery about lost treasure. Using his superior intellect and fierce determination, Nicholas strives to solve the mystery and makes a couple of fast friends in the process. Series


Weeks, Sarah. *Pie*. Scholastic, 2011. Alice’s Aunt Polly passes away and entrusts the recipe for her world-famous pie crust to her cat, which she leaves in Alice’s care. As everyone, including Alice, tries to discover the secret ingredients, Alice learns some important lessons about faith, love, and family.

Weston, Robert Paul. *Zorgamazo*. Razorbill, 2008. Imaginative and adventurous Katrina eludes her maniacal guardian to help Morty, a member of a vanishing breed of zorgles, with his quest to uncover the fate of the fabled zorgles of Zorgamazo as well as of other creatures that seem to have disappeared from the Earth.

Wood, Maryrose. *The Mysterious Howling*. Balzer + Bray, 2010. Three wild children who were raised by wolves and their young governess, Penelope, are caught up in the mysteries of Ashton Place and the people who live there. Series