

Great Books for Tweens

(those not quite teens)

Mysteries

Abrahams, Peter. **Down the Rabbit Hole: an Echo Falls Mystery.** 2005. Like her idol Sherlock Holmes, eighth grader Ingrid Levin-Hill uses her intellect to solve a murder case in her home town of Echo Falls. Followed by **Behind the Curtain: an Echo Falls Mystery.**

JH ABR

Avi. **Wolf Rider.** 1986. After receiving an apparent crank call from a man claiming to have committed murder, fifteen-year-old Andy finds his close relationship with his father crumbling as he struggles to make everyone believe him. **JH AVI**

Duncan, Lois. **Don't Look Behind You.** 1989. Seventeen-year-old April finds her comfortable life changed forever when death threats to her father, a witness in a federal case, force her family to go into hiding under assumed names and flee the pursuit of a hired killer. **JH DUN; YA PPB D**

Hawks, Robert. **This Stranger, My Father.** 1988. Patty Meely's world is turned upside-down when her father is arrested for espionage he had committed twenty years beforehand. **JH HAW**

Horowitz, Anthony. **Stormbreaker.** 2001. After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6. **YA FIC HOR**

Madison, Bennett. **Lulu Dark Can See Through Walls.** 2005. When someone steals her purse and her identity, high-school junior and reluctant girl sleuth Lulu Dark investigates. Followed by **Lulu Dark and the Summer of the Fox: a Mystery.**

YA FIC MAD

Pullman, Philip. **Ruby in the Smoke.** 1999. In nineteenth-century London, sixteen-year-old Sally, a recent orphan, becomes involved in deadly search for a mysterious ruby. Followed by **Shadow in the North** and **Tiger in the Well.**

YA FIC PUL; JH PUL; YA PPB P; YA CD-BOOK FIC PUL

Fantasy

Colfer, Eoin. **Artemis Fowl.** 2001. When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll. **YA FIC COL; YA PPB C; YA CD-BOOK FIC COL**

Cooper, Susan. **Dark is Rising.** 1973. On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magic Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over evil forces of the Dark. Followed by

Over Sea, Under Stone; **Greenwitch;** **Grey King;** and **Silver on the Tree.** **JH COO; JH CD-BOOK COO**

Funke, Cornelia. **Inkheart.** 2003. Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father, who repairs and binds books for a living, can "read" fictional characters to life when one of those characters abducts them and tries to force him into service. Followed by **Inkspell.** **JH FUN; JH CD-BOOK FUN**

Hoffman, Mary. **Stravaganza: City of Masks.** 2002. While sick in bed with cancer, Lucien begins making journeys to a place in a parallel world that resembles Venice, Italy, and he becomes caught up in the political intrigues surrounding the Duchessa who rules the city. Followed by **Stravaganza: City of Stars** and **Stravaganza: City of Flowers.** **YA FIC HOF**

Jackson, Percy. **Lightning Thief.** 2005. Twelve-year-old Percy Jackson learns he is a demigod, the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea. His mother sends him to a summer camp for demigods where he and his new friends set out on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. Followed by **Sea of Monsters.** **JH JAC; JH CD-BOOK JAC**

McKinley, Robin. **Blue Sword.** 1982. Harry, bored with her sheltered life in the remote orange-growing colony of Daria, discovers magic in herself when she is kidnapped by a native king with mysterious powers. Followed by **Hero and the Crown.** **JH MCK; YA FIC MCK**

Pierce, Meredith. **Darkangel.** 1982. The servant girl Aerial must choose between destroying her vampire master for his evil deeds or saving him for the sake of his beauty and the spark of greatness she has seen in him. Followed by **Gathering of Gargoyles** and **Pearl of the Soul of the World.** **YA FIC PIE; YA PPB P**

Pullman, Philip. **Golden Compass.** 1998. Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North. Followed by **Subtle Knife** and **Amber Spyglass.** **YA FIC PUL; YA PPB P; YA CD-BOOK FIC PUL**

Wrede, Patricia. **Dealing with Dragons.** 1990. Bored with traditional palace life, a princess goes off to live with a group of dragons and soon becomes involved with fighting against some disreputable wizards who want to steal away the dragons' kingdom. Followed by **Searching for Dragons;** **Calling on Dragons;** and **Talking to Dragons.** **JH WRE; J CD-BOOK WRE**

Historical Fiction

Greene, Bette. **Summer of my German Soldier.** 1973. Sheltering an escaped German prisoner of war is the beginning of some shattering experiences for a twelve-year-old Jewish girl in Arkansas. **JH GRE**

Holm, Jennifer. **Boston Jane: an Adventure.** 2001. Schooled in the lessons of etiquette for young ladies of 1854, Miss Jane Peck of Philadelphia finds little use for manners during her long sea voyage to the Pacific Northwest and while living among the American traders and Chinook Indians of Washington Territory. Followed by **Boston Jane: Wilderness Days** and **Boston Jane: the Claim.** **JH HOL**

Lasky, Kathryn. **Beyond the Divide.** 1983. In 1849, a fourteen-year-old Amish girl defies convention by leaving her secure home in Pennsylvania to accompany her father across the continent by wagon train. **JH LAS**

Lasky, Kathryn. **True North.** 1996. Because of the strong influence which her grandfather, an abolitionist, has in her life, fourteen-year-old Lucy assists a fugitive slave girl in her escape. **YA FIC LAS**

Magorian, Michelle. **Goodnight Mister Tom.** 1981. As Britain stands on the brink of WWII, Tom Oakley, a cantankerous old man living a solitary life in a small village becomes the guardian of an 11-year-old evacuee of London. The two develop a bond of friendship that gives them both new hope. **JH MAG; YA PPB M**

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Daughter of Venice.** 2002. Frustrated with the restrictions her gender imposes on her life, fourteen-year-old Donata, disguised as a boy, sneaks out of her noble family's house to roam the streets of late sixteenth-century Venice and then must confront the repercussions of her actions. **YA FIC NAP**

Napoli, Donna Jo. **Stones in Water.** 1997. After being taken by German soldiers from a local movie theater along with other Italian boys including his Jewish friend, Roberto is forced to work in Germany, escapes into the Ukrainian winter, before desperately trying to make his way back home to Venice. Followed by **Fire in the Hills** (2006). **JH NAP**

Orlev, Uri. **Man from the Other Side.** 1991. Living on the outskirts of the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, fourteen-year-old Marek and his grandparents shelter a Jewish man in the days before the Jewish uprising. **JH ORL**

Rinaldi, Ann. **Wolf by the Ears.** 1991. Harriet Hemings, rumored to be the daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings, one of his black slaves, struggles with the problems facing her--to escape from the velvet cage that is Monticello, or to stay, and thus remain a slave. **YA FIC RIN; YA PPB R**

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. **Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind.** 1989. When eleven-year old Shabanu, the daughter of a nomad in the Cholistan Desert of present-day Pakistan, is pledged in marriage to an older man whose money will bring prestige to the family, she must either accept the decision, as is the custom, or risk the consequences of defying her father's wishes. Followed by **Haveli.** **JH SHA;**
YA CD-BOOK FIC STA

Whelan, Gloria. **Angel on the Square.** 2001. In 1913 Russia, twelve-year-old Katya eagerly anticipates leaving her St. Petersburg home, though not her older cousin Misha, to join her mother, a lady in waiting in the household of Tsar Nicholas II, but the ensuing years bring world war, revolution, and undreamed of changes to her life. **JH WHE; J PPB W; JH CD-BOOK WHE**

Science Fiction

Farmer, Nancy. **House of the Scorpion.** 2002. In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. **YA FIC FAR; YA CD-BOOK FIC FAR**

Lowry, Lois. **Giver.** 1993. Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Followed by **Gathering Blue** and **Messenger.** **JH LOW; YA PPB L;**
JH CD-BOOK LOW

A Bit of This and a Bit of That

Avi. Nothing But the Truth. 1991. A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story. **JH AVI; J PPB A**

Bauer, Joan. Squashed. 1992. As a sixteen-year-old pursues her two goals--growing the biggest pumpkin in Iowa and losing twenty pounds herself--she strengthens her relationship with her father and meets a young man with interests similar to her own. This author has written many other fun books such as

Rules of the Road and Thwonk. **JH BAU; YA PPB B; J PPB B**

Cooney, Caroline. Face on the Milk Carton. 1990. A photograph of a missing girl on a milk carton leads Janie on a search for her real identity. Followed by Whatever Happened to Janie; Voice on the Radio; and What Janie Found. **YA FIC COO; YA PPB C**

Eckert, Allan. Savage Journey. 1979. Sarah, a young teen, navigates the huge Amazon rainforest alone after she is separated from her naturalist father and their group. She gets lost, but keeps her head, remembering her father's teachings. When she meets a native boy named Juma, he helps her learn even more while they slowly learn each other's language. **YA FIC ECK**

Gaiman, Neil. Coraline. 2002. Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others. **JH GAI; YA FIC GAI**

Haddix, Margaret. Just Ella. 1999. In this continuation of the Cinderella story, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette, so she plots to escape. **YA FIC HAD; YA CD-BOOK FIC HAD**

Hokenson, Terry. Winter Road. 2006. Seventeen-year-old Willa, still grieving over the death of her older brother and the neglect of her father, decides to fly a small plane to fetch her mother from Northern Ontario, but when the plane crashes she is all alone in the snowy wilderness. Read after Hatchet by Paulsen. **YA FIC HOK**

L'Engle, Madeline. Ring of Endless Light. 1980. During the summer her grandfather is dying of leukemia and death seems all around, 15-year-old Vicky finds comfort with the pod of dolphins with which she has been doing research. **JH LEN**

Mazer, Harry. Island Keeper. 1981. Longing to disappear after the death of her beloved younger sister, 16-year-old Cleo runs away from her overprotective and oppressive family and goes to a remote island where she is the only human inhabitant. **JH MAZ**

McKinley, Robin. Outlaws of Sherwood. 1988. The adventures of Robin Hood and his band of outlaws who live in Sherwood Forest in twelfth-century England, retold from Marian's point of view. **JH MCK; YA FIC MCK**

Miller, Kirsten. Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City. 2006. Life becomes more interesting for Ananka Fishbein when, at the age of twelve, she discovers an underground room in the park across from her New York City apartment and meets

a mysterious girl called Kiki Strike who claims that she, too, wants to explore the subterranean world. **J MIL**

Naylor, Phyllis. Alice Alone. 2001. Alice's first year in high school gets off to a difficult start when she and her boyfriend Patrick break up, but with the help of her father, older brother, and best friends, she gains a better sense of her own self-worth. This is one of many books about Alice. Check the shelves! **JH NAY**

Naylor, Phyllis. Sang Spell. 1998. When his mother is killed in an automobile accident, high-schooler Josh decides to hitchhike across country, and finds himself trapped in a mysterious village somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains, among a group of people who call themselves Melungeons. **YA FIC NAY; YA PPB N**

Paulsen, Gary. Hatchet. 1987. After a plane crash, thirteen-year-old Brian spends fifty-four days in the wilderness, learning to survive with only the aid of a hatchet given him by his mother, and learning also to survive his parents' divorce. Followed by River; Brian's Winter; Brian's Return; and Brian's Hunt. **JH PAU; YA PPB P; J PPB P**

Philbrick, Rodman. Freak the Mighty. 1993. At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team. Followed by Max the Mighty. **JH PHI**

Spinelli, Jerry. Stargirl. 2000. In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever. **YA FIC SPI; YA PPB S**

Springer, Nancy. Rowan Hood: Outlaw Girl of Sherwood Forest. 2001. In her quest to connect with Robin Hood, the father she has never met, thirteen-year-old Rosemary disguises herself as a boy, befriends a half-wolf, half-dog, a runaway princess, and an overgrown boy whose singing is hypnotic, and makes peace with her elfin heritage. Followed by Lionclaw; Outlaw Princess of Sherwood; Wild Boy; and Rowan Hood Returns. **YA FIC SPR; YA CD-BOOK FIC SPR**

Voight, Cynthia. Jackaroo. 1985. When hard times among the People revive the old stories of the hero Jackaroo, an innkeeper's daughter follows her own quest to unlock the secret reality behind the legend. Those who love Robin Hood stories will love this. **JH VOI; YA PPB V**