

# Building a Home Library

**for Children Ages 12-14**

*The ALA-Children's Book Council (CBC) Joint Committee, with cooperation from the ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee, has created this bibliography to provide guidance to parents, grandparents, and others interested in assembling a high-quality library for their children at home.*



**We suggest the following sites for more book titles:**

[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)  
[www.ala.org/alsc](http://www.ala.org/alsc)

### **Questions?**

American Library Association  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
800-545-2433 x2163

**I Lived on Butterfly Hill**  
by Marjorie Agosin  
Illustrated by Lee White

Atheneum Books for Young Readers / Simon & Schuster, 2014  
Celeste's world changes forever when the Dictator comes to power. As her parents go into hiding and classmates become part of the disappeared, Celeste tries to find strength in both Chile and Maine. *Ebook available.*

**The Crossover**  
by Kwame Alexander

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014  
Twins Josh and Jordan are inseparable until a girl comes between them in a fast-paced mix of poetry and basketball. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**Mockingbird**  
by Kathryn Erskine

Philomel / Penguin, 2010  
Caitlyn has Asperger's and finds school difficult. After her brother is killed in a school shooting, how will she adjust to life without him? *Audio/Ebook available.*

**\*Better Nate Than Ever**  
by Tim Federle

Simon & Schuster, 2013  
When Nate hears about auditions for E.T.: The Musical!, he realizes this might be his one and only chance to fulfill his Broadway dreams. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**Sidekicks**  
by Jack D. Ferraiolo

Amulet Books / Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010  
By day, he's Scott Hutchinson. By night, he's Bright Boy, superhero sidekick. *Ebook available.*

**The Graveyard Book**  
by Neil Gaiman  
Illustrated by Dave McKean

HarperCollins, 2008  
After toddler Nobody Owens' family is murdered, he wanders into the nearby graveyard and is raised by the spirits who live there. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**\*Dead End in Norvelt**  
by Jack Gantos

Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Macmillan, 2011  
Jack thinks his summer is over until his mother volunteers him to help a neighbor. He discovers a mystery behind his unusual assignment. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**Seraphina**  
by Rachel Hartman

Random House, 2012  
In an era of uneasy peace, half-human half-dragon Seraphina Dombegh, court musician in the kingdom of Goredd, hides the truth of her birth. When a royal is killed by a rogue dragon and her beloved dragon uncle goes missing, Seraphina draws on powers she didn't know she possessed. She can communicate with others like herself. *Ebook available.*

**Titanic: Voices from the Disaster**

by Deborah Hopkinson  
Scholastic Inc., 2012  
Using accounts from survivors, Hopkinson paints a gripping picture of the Titanic disaster. *Ebook available.*

**Roller Girl**  
by Victoria Jamieson  
Dial Books / Penguin, 2015  
Astrid's desire to learn roller derby leads her away from an old friend but towards a new sense of self-confidence. *Ebook available.*

**Inside Out and Back Again**  
by Thanhha Lai  
HarperCollins, 2011  
Hà flees with her family from war-torn Vietnam and comes to the United States to make a new home in a strange country. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**\*A Wrinkle In Time**  
by Madeleine L'Engle  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux / Macmillan, 2012  
Meg, her brother Charles Wallace, and friend Calvin embark on a fantastic journey across time and space to rescue her scientist father. *Ebook available.*

**Egg & Spoon**  
by Gregory Maguire  
Candlewick Press, 2014  
A chance encounter between a peasant girl, and young noblewoman in the countryside of tsarist Russia begins this adventure involving mistaken identity, a train, a firebird, a Fabergé egg, a near-sighted guardian, a cannibalistic witch (whose bark is worse than her bite), and a magical flying house with chicken legs. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**A Monster Calls**  
by Patrick Ness  
Illustrated by Jim Kay  
Candlewick Press, 2011  
There are many different kinds of monsters and nightmares, but sometimes what frightens you most also makes you strong. *Ebook available.*

**The Seventh Most Important Thing**  
by Shelley Pearsall  
Knopf / Random House, 2015  
Grieving his father's death, Arthur lashes out at the local "junk man" by hurling a brick at him. His sentence is to work for his victim, Mr. Hampton, collecting the seven most important kinds of trash, which he uses to create an artistic masterpiece. *Ebook available.*

**Pax**  
by Sara Pennypacker  
Illustrations by Jon Klassen  
Balzer & Bray / HarperCollins, 2016  
Separated by war, Peter and his pet fox struggle to reunite despite overwhelming physical and emotional obstacles. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**The Queen of Water**  
by Laura Resau and Maria Virginia Farinango  
Delacorte / Random House, 2011  
A young girl in Ecuador is taken from her family to be a servant to the ruling class. Based on a true story. *Ebook available.*

**Echo**  
by Pam Munoz Ryan  
Scholastic Inc., 2015  
Music and an incredibly special harmonica link together the lives of four different children. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**The War Within These Walls**  
by Aline Sax  
Eerdmans, 2013  
Misha's family, like the rest of the Jews living in Warsaw, has been moved by the Nazis into a single crowded ghetto. When conditions worsen, Misha joins a handful of other Jews who decide to make a final, desperate stand against the Nazis.

**Okay for Now**  
by Gary D. Schmidt  
Clarion / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011  
Doug Swietek must overcome a deadbeat father, an older brother who steals from him, a brother returning from the Vietnam War, and being the new kid in boring Marysville, New York. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**The Hired Girl**  
by Laura Amy Schlitz  
Candlewick Press, 2015  
In her diary, Joan records her dreams, hopes, and aspirations to escape her subsistence life as a farm worker in Pennsylvania of 1911. *Ebook available.*

**Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon**  
by Steve Sheinkin  
Flash Point / Macmillan, 2013  
As WWII raged, the United States entered the race to build the first atomic bomb. *Ebook available.*

**Goodbye Stranger**  
by Rebecca Stead  
Random House Children's Books, 2015  
The lives of three best friends who have the motto, "No fighting," get complicated as they navigate seventh grade. Their stories intersect with a mystery character with something to hide. *Ebook available.*

**\*The Mysterious Benedict Society**  
by Trenton Lee Stewart  
Illustrated by Carson Ellis  
Little, Brown and Company Books for Young Readers, 2007  
Four children are selected, through a series of unusual tests, to go on a secret mission that will quite possibly save the world. *Audio/Ebook available.*

**Drama**  
by Raina Telgemeier  
Graphix / Scholastic Inc., 2012  
Callie works on the stage crew, where she meets new friends and navigates middle school, in this engaging graphic novel. *Ebook available.*