“The READING BEYOND list celebrates the power of books to lift and expand children’s minds, providing reading experiences beyond levels and limits.”

- Susan Polos and Janet Wong, co-chairs of the ALA-CBC Joint Committee

We suggest the following sites for more book titles:
www.cbcbooks.org / www.ala.org
Questions? cbc.info@cbcbooks.org

These books were chosen from over 600 submitted for evaluation by the ALA member librarians of the committee and were chosen for their content, quality, and variety of genre and format.

Here are 25 books chosen by the American Library Association & Children’s Book Council Joint Committee to provide guidance to parents, caregivers, teachers, librarians, and others interested in discovering books for children who read at an advanced level and are seeking more challenging, but still age-appropriate, books.

for Children in Grades 4-5
reading at a 7th Grade level

New for 2017-2018
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
by William Kamkwamba
and Bryan Mealer
Dial Books for Young Readers / Random House, 2016
The memoir of William Kamkwamba, who created a windmill to bring lighting to his family home in Malawi. A true story about ingenuity from a pioneering spirit.

Candy Bomber: The Story of the Berlin Airlift's "Chocolate Pilot"
by Michael O. Tunnell
Charlottesville, 2010
A US Air Force pilot drops candy to the children of blockaded West Berlin at the end of the European conflict during World War II.

Earthrise: My Adventures as an Apollo 14 Astronaut
by Edgar Mitchell and Ellen Mahoney
Chicago Review Press, 2014
Recollections from the sixth man to ever walk on the Moon for young adult readers.

*Everland
by Wendy Spinale
Scholastic, 2016
In a London destroyed by a blitz of bombs and disease, Gwen Darling and her siblings find safety with a daredevil boy named Pete and his gang of Lost Boys.

Falling Over Sideways
by Jordan Sonnenblick
Scholastic, 2016
When Claire's beloved father unexpectedly has a stroke in front of her, it changes everything.

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time
by Tanya Lee Stone
A compelling collection of stories of girls around the world who pursue their education, despite efforts to keep them from attending school.

Gracefully Grayson
by Ami Polonsky
Disney-Hyperion, 2014
Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender's body, but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. Grayson's journey to self-discovery will move and inspire readers.

Hour of the Bees
by Lindsay Edgar
Candlewick Press, 2016
What does it mean to be fully alive? Magic blends with reality in a stunning coming-of-age novel about a girl, a grandfather, wanderlust, and reclaiming your roots.

The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog
by Adam Gidwitz
Illustrated by Hatem Aly
A medieval tale, told from multiple points of view, about three children with extraordinary gifts on an incredible journey.

The Lightning Queen
by Laura Resau
Scholastic, 2015
Inspired by true stories derived from rural Mexico, The Lightning Queen offers a glimpse of the encounter between the Rom and the Mixtec Indians, while telling the heart-warming story of an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

Lincoln’s Grave Robbers
by Steve Sheinkin
Candlewick Press, 2012
Amy Schlitz brings her epic life of Minamoto Yoshitsune
by Pamela S. Turner
Illustrated by Gareth Hinds
Charlottesville, 2016
This satirical but honest look at being both a bright, sensitive middle schooler, and a so-called "model minority" in a decidedly not-diverse town... with a surprise twist!

We Will Not Be Silent
by Russell Freedman
Clarion / Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016
The true story of the White Rose student resistance movement that defied Nazi Germany.