



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

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.



2020-2021

The Best at It

by Maulik Pancholy

HarperCollins Children's Books / Balzer+Bray, 2019
An Indian American boy in Indiana, nervous about entering middle school, tries to follow his grandfather's advice and become the best.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Reader's Edition

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Penguin Young Readers / Puffin Books, 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. ▲ *Spanish*.

The Bridge Home

by Padma Venkatraman

Penguin Young Readers / Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019
Four homeless children in India form a chosen family and support each other through difficult times in this debut novel.

***Front Desk**

by Kelly Yang

Scholastic / Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018

A resourceful Chinese immigrant girl makes friends and solves mysteries while working at the front desk of the motel that her parents manage for an exploitive owner.

Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time

by Tanya Lee Stone

Random House Children's Books / Wendy Lamb, 2017

A compelling collection of stories of girls around the world who managed to get an education despite efforts to keep them from attending school.

Gracefully Grayson

by Ami Polonsky

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2014

Sixth-grader Grayson feels stuck in the wrong gender's body but hopes to be cast as the female lead in the school play. An emotional and courageous journey of self-discovery to be one's true self. ▲ *Spanish*.

Harbor Me

by Jacqueline Woodson

Penguin Young Readers / Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018

Six sixth graders meet weekly to talk about personal and global issues, providing safe harbors for each other.

Hurricane Child

by Kacen Callender

Scholastic Press, 2018

Set in the Caribbean (the U.S. Virgin Islands), this coming-of-age novel explores topics of loneliness, abandonment, friendship, and love.

Illegal

by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Illus. by Giovanni Rigano

Sourcebooks, 2018

A graphic novel exploring the plight of undocumented immigrants in which a Ghanaian refugee child

journeys to Europe to reunite with his siblings. ▲ *Spanish*.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog

by Adam Gidwitz. Illus. by Hatem Aly

Penguin Young Readers / Dutton, 2016

A medieval tale, told from multiple points of view, about three children with extraordinary gifts on an incredible journey.

Internment

by Samira Ahmed

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019

This cautionary tale takes place in an internment camp in California for Muslim Americans, with a teen leading a revolution against the camp's director and guards. ▲ *Spanish*.

The Journey of Little Charlie

by Christopher Paul Curtis

Scholastic Press, 2018

Set in 1858, a boy from South Carolina tries to settle a debt for his sharecropper family by accompanying a plantation owner on a journey to Canada to capture a fugitive slave. ▲ *Spanish*.

Legends, Icons & Rebels: Music that Changed the World

by Robbie Robertson et al.

Tundra Books, 2013

The lives of 27 musicians are showcased in thoughtful biographies, gorgeous artwork, and CDs of their music.

The Lightning Queen

by **Laura Resau**

Scholastic Press, 2016

A glimpse of the encounter between two fascinating but marginalized Mexican cultures—the Rom and the Mixtec Indians—while sharing an unlikely friendship that spans generations.

Lincoln's Grave Robbers

by **Steve Sheinkin**

Scholastic Press, 2013

A counterfeiting ring plotted to ransom Lincoln's body to secure the release of their imprisoned ringleader. Then the Secret Service conducted a daring election night sting operation.

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95

by **Phillip Hoose**

Macmillan Children's Publishing Group / Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

This book shows the obstacles that shorebirds called rufa red knots face as a worldwide team of scientists and conservationists try to save them before it's too late.

The Night Diary

by **Veera Hiranandani**

Penguin Young Readers / Kokila, 2018

In 1947, as India was divided into two countries—India (for Hindus) and Pakistan (for Muslims)—a half-Muslim, half-Hindu girl wonders where she will be safe.

One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance

by **Nikki Grimes**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2017

Using the Golden Shovel poetic form, Nikki Grimes shares classic poetry and her own poems to bring the Harlem Renaissance to life for young readers.

Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls

by **Tonya Bolden**

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017

A collection of sixteen mini-biographies of African-American trailblazers, brought to life with detailed histories and illustrations.

Promise of Change: One Girl's Story in the Fight for School Equality

by **Jo Ann Allen Boyce and Debbie Levy**

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2019

In 1956, Jo Ann Allen was one of twelve African-American students who broke the color barrier and integrated Clinton High School in Tennessee.

Refugee

by **Alan Gratz**

Scholastic Press, 2017

A hopeful novel tying together the stories of three refugee children: a boy in 1930s Nazi Germany, a girl in Castro's Cuba in 1994, and a boy in Syria in 2015. ▲ *Spanish*.

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

by **Caren Stelson**

Lerner / Carolrhoda Books, 2016

After surviving the bombing of her hometown of Nagasaki, Sachiko Yasui's story of the aftermath and her journey of healing is captured by biographer Caren Stelson.

Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune

by **Pamela S. Turner. Illus. by Gareth Hinds**

Charlesbridge, 2016

A nonfiction graphic novel that details the life of Minamoto Yoshitsune. Driven by honor and the desire to avenge his father's murder, Yoshitsune partakes in many bloody battles. Biography includes author and chapter notes, timeline, and glossary.

The Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic

by **Allan Wolf**

Candlewick Press, 2013

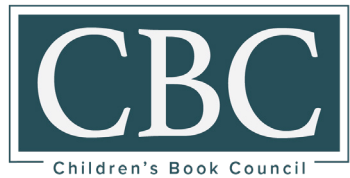
The Titanic story, told in verse (24 voices), with extensive back matter, including coded messages to decipher and historical documents.

We Will Not Be Silent

by **Russell Freedman**

HMH Books for Young Readers / Clarion Books, 2016

The true story of the White Rose student resistance movement that defied Nazi Germany.



We suggest the following sites for more book titles:

www.cbcbooks.org

www.ala.org/alsc

Questions?

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611
alsc@ala.org

The Children's Book Council
54 W 39th St., 14 Floor
New York, NY 10018
cbc.info@cbcbooks.org