

Summer 2009 Reading List S.C.A.P.A. Eighth Graders

Students are required to read a total of four books during the summer. Choose two books from the language arts' list, one book from the science list, and one book from the social studies' list. Within two weeks of returning to school, students will be required to take Accelerated Reader (A.R.) tests on all of these books. In addition, students will prepare a quadraform book project on their science content book and write a book review on their social studies' book. The books listed below can be found at the Lexington Public Library and at local or on-line book stores. Enjoy!

LANGUAGE ARTS (Choose two from this list.)

1. **Airborn** by Kenneth Oppel. Matt Cruse has the life he has always dreamed of as a cabin boy on the Aurora, a luxury passenger airship that sails hundreds of feet above the ocean. Then one night he meets a dying balloonist who speaks of beautiful creatures drifting through the skies who are completely real and utterly mysterious. (5.1 B.L.)
2. **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** by Betty Smith. Bright but lonely, poor but resourceful, Francie Nolan is captured from ages 11 to 16 with poignancy and love. She is her daddy's "prima donna" and she treasures his love while fighting to win her mother's. Although she never achieves the place in her mother's heart that her brother holds, her strength and perseverance guide her through difficult times. (7.5 B.L.)
3. **The Call of the Wild** by Jack London. This classic story is about a kidnapped dog and the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1896. (7.3 B.L.)
4. **Catherine, Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman. This unusual book provides an insider's look at the life of Birdy, 14, the daughter of a minor English nobleman. The year is 1290 and the vehicle for storytelling is the girl's witty, irreverent diary. She looks with a clear and critical eye upon the world around her, telling of the people she knows and of the daily events in her small manor house. (7.4 B.L.)
5. **Fallen Angels** by Walter Dean Myers. This is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service during the Vietnam War when his dream of attending college falls through. (7.1 B.L.)
6. **The Fellowship of the Ring** by J.R.R. Tolkien. In ancient times, the Rings of Power were crafted by the Elvensmiths, and Sauron, the Dark Lord, forged the One Ring, filling it with his own power so that he could rule all others. But the One Ring was taken from him, and though he sought it throughout Middle-earth, still it remained lost to him . . . (7.5 B.L.)
7. **Flyte** by Angie Sage. Septimus Heap, Apprentice to the ExtraOrdinary Wizard, is back in this sequel to *Magyk*. The defeated, but not destroyed, DomDaniel is still bent on ruling the Castle as ExtraOrdinary Wizard by removing Jenna, the rightful heir to the throne. This time it's Simon Heap who, as the necromancer's new Apprentice, pursues Jenna through both new and familiar territory. (6.0 B.L.)
8. **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelly. A chilling classic book about Victor, a curious individual who comes up with an idea of recreating life after it has been destroyed. He regrets making his creation due to the destruction caused to those around him. (9.8 B.L.)
9. **The Goose Girl** by Shannon Hale. A fine adventure tale full of danger, suspense, and surprising twists in the face of overwhelming odds. The richly rendered, medieval folkloric setting adds to the charm. (5.9 B.L.)
10. **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by Douglas Adams. Join Arthur Dent as he travels the galaxy with his intrepid pal Ford Prefect, getting into horrible messes and generally wreaking hilarious havoc. Dent is grabbed from Earth moments before a cosmic construction team obliterates the planet to build a freeway. You'll never read funnier science fiction. (6.6 B.L.)
11. **The Hobbit: There and Back Again** – J.R.R. Tolkien. Bilbo Baggins, a well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in hobbit-hole until one day Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return. (7.2 B.L.)
12. **Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. "The novel tells the story of Sir Henry Baskerville, who arrives at Baskerville Hall to investigate the mysterious death of his uncle, Sir Charles. Charles' strange and unexpected death resurrects long-ignored fears about an ancient and vengeful beast and a Baskerville family curse. Holmes, always calm and calculating, uses his keen powers of observation to discern the fine lines between good and evil, truth and fiction, and reason and superstition, even as the story's events threaten to spiral out of control." (8.3 B.L.)
13. **Ironman** by Chris Crutcher. *Ironman* is a funny, heartbreaking story about growing up in the heart of

and learning to listen. (5.5 B.L.)

14. **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte. “Having grown up an orphan in the home of her cruel aunt and at a harsh charity school, Jane Eyre becomes an independent and spirited survivor—qualities that serve her well as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him whatever the consequences or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving her beloved?” (10 B.L.)
15. **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott. “The four March girls -- practical Meg, rambunctious Jo, sweet Beth and childish artist Amy -- live in genteel poverty with their mother Marmee; their father is away in the Civil War. Despite having little money, the girls keep their spirits up with writing, gardening, homemade plays, and the occasional romp with wealthier pals. Their pal, "poor little rich boy" Laurie, joins in and becomes their adoptive brother, as the girls deal with Meg's first romance, Beth's life-threatening illness, and fears for their father's safety.” (8.6 B.L.)
16. **Mrs. McGinty's Dead** by Agatha Christie. “Mrs. McGinty is an elderly cleaning woman whose brutal murder in her village of Broadhinny leads to the arrest of her lodger, James Bentley. The motive appears to be robbery as her small cache of savings is found hidden near her cottage and her blood and hair are found on Bentley's coat. But Superintendent Spence suspects something is not quite right and calls in Hercule Poirot to investigate this crime.” (7.9 B.L.)
17. **My Antonia** by Willa Cather. “In this extraordinary novel, Miss Cather weaves together the story of Antonia Shimerda, an immigrant girl from Bohemia who represents the optimism, determination and pure grit that newcomers to America needed to make a successful life, and that of American-born Jim Burden, our narrator.” (8.0 B.L.)
18. **My Losing Season** by Pat Conroy. “When one loses, one learns”, says Conroy. A wonderfully rich, informative, and well-researched reminiscence of, primarily, his senior year as a point guard at the Citadel during the 1966-67 season.(6.9B.L.)
19. **Nothing But the Truth** by Avi. Structured as a series of journal entries, memos, letters and dialogues, this highly original novel emerges as a witty satire of high school politics, revealing how truth can easily become distorted. After Philip Malloy, a clownish, rather unmotivated freshman, is punished for causing a disturbance (humming "The Star Spangled Banner"), facts about the incident become exaggerated until a minor school infraction turns into a national scandal. (6.9 B.L.)
20. **Out of the Dust** by Karen Hesse. In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates to the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression. (5.6 B.L.)
21. **Physk** by Angie Sage. Few fans of the best-selling Septimus Heap series will be disappointed by this excellent third adventure, which counters the fraying novelty of the DomDaniel plotline with a brand new villain--a former queen whose malevolent spirit is accidentally released from an enchanted portrait. Along with a deadly epidemic, the spirit brings turmoil to the kingdom and to Septimus, who is forcibly apprenticed to an alchemist living many centuries earlier. (6.5 B.L.)
22. **Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen. “Elizabeth Bennet is the perfect Austen heroine: intelligent, generous, sensible, incapable of jealousy or any other major sin. That makes her sound like an insufferable goody-goody, but the truth is she's a completely hip character, who if provoked is not above skewering her antagonist with a piece of her exceptionally sharp -- but always polite -- 18th century wit. The point is, you spend the whole book absolutely fixated on the critical question: will Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy hook up?” (11.0 B.L.)
23. **The Rag and Bone Shop** by Robert Cormier. Jason is a young man facing a clever police interrogator who will not stop until he secures a confession about a brutal murder. How far are the police willing to go for a conviction? (5.7. B.L.)
24. **Redwall** Series by Brian Jacques. You may read any book in this series.
25. **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd. The tale of one motherless daughter's discovery of what family really means—and the strange and wondrous places we find love. (5.7 B.L.)
26. **A Separate Peace** by John Knowles. This book, set in New England during World War II, is about two boys with extremely different personalities who are best friends. They attend a private boarding school during their last summer before being old enough to face the war. (9.5 B.L.)
27. **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes** by Chris Crutcher. An obese boy and a disfigured girl suffer the

emotional scars of years of mockery at the hands of their peers. They share a hard-boiled view of the world until events in their senior year hurl them in very different directions. A story about a friendship with staying power, written with pathos and pointed humor. (7.0 B.L.)

28. **Stotan!** by Chris Crutcher. “To be a Stotan (a cross between a Stoic and a Spartan) is to push one's physical and emotional capabilities beyond the limit, as four high school swimmers find out when they accept the challenge of a week-long endurance test devised by their coach. Though it is swim team captain Walker Dupree who narrates, this is every bit as much an ensemble novel as it is four individual stories.” (7.5 B.L.)
29. **The Sword in the Stone** by T.H. White. “*The Sword And The Stone* recreates, against the background of magnificent pageantry and dark magic that was medieval England, the education and training of young King Arthur, who was to become the greatest of Britain's legendary rulers.” (7.5 B.L.)
30. **A Tale of Two Cities** by Charles Dickens. “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .” With these famous words, **Charles Dickens** plunges the reader into one of history's most explosive eras—the French Revolution. From the storming of the Bastille to the relentless drop of the guillotine, Dickens vividly captures the terror and upheaval of that tumultuous period. At the center is the novel's hero, Sydney Carton, a lazy, alcoholic attorney who, inspired by a woman, makes the supreme sacrifice on the bloodstained streets of Paris.” (9.2 B.L.)
31. **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee. “Set in the small Southern town of Maycomb, Alabama, during the Depression, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows three years in the life of 8-year-old Scout Finch, her brother, Jem, and their father, Atticus--three years punctuated by the arrest and eventual trial of a young black man accused of raping a white woman. Though her story explores big themes, Harper Lee chooses to tell it through the eyes of a child. The result is a tough and tender novel of race, class, justice, and the pain of growing up.” (7.4 B.L.)
32. **Tuesdays with Morrie** by Mitch Albom. The touching, true story of lessons about life and death which a sportswriter learns from a favorite professor who is facing death. (5.5 B.L.)
33. **Whale Talk** by Chris Crutcher. Crutcher's gripping tale of small-town prejudice delivers a frank, powerful message about social issues and ills. Representing one-third of his community's minority population (“I'm black. And Japanese. And white”), narrator T.J. Jones voices a darkly ironic appraisal of the high school sports arena. (6.1 B.L.)
34. **White Fang** by Jack London. London tells the story of a wolf-dog who endures great cruelty before he comes to know human kindness. (7.7 B.L.)
35. **The Wind in the Willows** by Kenneth Grahame. “When Kenneth Grahame first entertained his son with letters about a petulant character named Toad, he had no way of knowing that his creation—together with his friends Mole, Rat, and Badger—would delight children for nearly 100 years. Here they are once more, pursuing adventure in gypsy caravans, stolen sports cars, and prison, but always returning to their beloved Wildwood. And although Grahame's characters are unmistakably animals, they remain endearingly human in their eccentricity, folly, and friendship.” (8.3 B.L.)
37. **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte. “The novel is told in the form of an extended flashback. After a visit to his strange landlord, a newcomer to the area desires to know the history of the family--which he receives from Nelly Deans, a servant who introduces us to the Earnshaw family who once resided in the house known as Wuthering Heights. It was once a cheerful place, but Old Earnshaw adopted a “Gipsy” child who he named Heathcliff. And Catherine, daughter of the house, found in him the perfect companion: wild, rude, and as proud and cruel as she. But although Catherine loves him, even recognizes him as her soul mate, she cannot lower herself to marry so far below her social station. She instead marries another, and in so doing sets in motion an obsession that will destroy them all.” (9.9 B.L.)

SCIENCE (Choose one from this list.)

1. **All Creatures Great and Small** by James Herriot. Here is the heartwarming true story of Dr. James Herriot, an English country veterinarian, whose humor and natural storytelling ability have captured the hearts of American readers in a very special way.
2. **All Things Bright and Beautiful** by James Herriot. “We meet an unforgettable cast of characters, animal and human, in the second volume of Herriot's memoirs. Herriot is now Siegfried's partner in the country veterinary practice, and we go with him on his rounds, cheering his successes, mourning his losses, and smiling at the humor he finds so often.” (6.7 B.L.)

3. **All Things Wise and Wonderful** by James Herriot. The third book in the series is set in the midst of WW II. James is training for the Royal Air Force, while going home to Yorkshire whenever possible to see his very pregnant wife, Helen. Musing on past adventures through the dales, visiting with old friends, and introducing scores of new and amusing characters--animal and human alike--Herriot entralls readers once again with his uncanny ability to spin a most engaging and heartfelt yarn.
4. **The Lord God Make Them All** by James Herriot. This is the fourth in a series written by a Scottish veterinarian who takes a job in Yorkshire, England, working under Siegfried Farnon. James Herriot, Farnon and his brother Tristan work on all sorts of animals from parakeets to draft horses.
5. **The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker** by Cynthia DeFelice. Lucas' entire family has died, one by one, of tuberculosis, known as consumption in the mid-1800s. Wandering through the Connecticut countryside in grief, Lucas ends up becoming the new apprentice to Dr. Uriah M. Beecher, also the local dentist, apothecary, barber, and undertaker. Lucas' new community is being decimated by consumption, and the local people want to try a technique rumored to work: digging up the remains of the first family member to die, removing and burning the heart, and breathing in the smoke. Dr. Beecher is certain this is useless at best, but Lucas feels sure it is worth a try. DeFelice skillfully gives readers enough historical information to see the reasoning behind the macabre practice
6. **Born Free** by Joy Adamson. "Adamson recounts her adventures as the surrogate mother of an orphaned lion cub named Elsa (with parenting duties shared by her husband George and by a delightfully imperturbable rock hyrax named Pati), whom she raised as a welcome member of her human and animal family while painstakingly teaching Elsa the skills she would need to survive in the wild. Her teaching, against all odds, was effective: three years later, the Adamsons took Elsa to a place near that of her birth and set her loose, hoping that she would find her "real pride" among other lions of the Kenya grasslands--as she soon did." (7.8 B.L.)
7. **Charles Darwin: The Life of a Revolutionary Thinker** by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. "Drawing from published sources as well as the thousands of letters Darwin left behind, Patent creates a vivid picture of the man as a gregarious, loving father, beset by ill health for most of his life, as well as a probing thinker, careful observer, and gifted writer." (9.1 B.L.)
8. **Code Orange** by Caroline Cooney. "Cooney leads a gregarious New York City teenager to a century-old sample of smallpox scabs. As dedicated to avoiding study as he is to getting closer to classmate Olivia, Mitty is oblivious to the danger he, she, and everyone else in the crowded city is in from his possible exposure to this hyper-contagious, utterly devastating disease--until he starts looking into smallpox for a school project. Drawing from several medical resources, which she lists at the end, Cooney lays out the illness's history and symptoms in precise, gruesome detail as a horrified Mitty writhes on the horns of a dilemma: Is the virus still active?" (6.2 B.L.)
9. **Demon in the Freezer** by Richard Preston. On December 9, 1979, smallpox, the most deadly human virus, ceased to exist in nature. After eradication, it was confined to freezers located in just two places on earth: the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Maximum Containment Laboratory in Siberia. But these final samples were not destroyed at that time, and now secret stockpiles of smallpox surely exist. For example, since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the subsequent end of its biological weapons program, a sizeable amount of the former Soviet Union's smallpox stockpile remains unaccounted for, leading to fears that the virus has fallen into the hands of nations or terrorist groups willing to use it as a weapon. Scarier yet, some may even be trying to develop a strain that is resistant to vaccines. This disturbing reality is the focus of this fascinating, terrifying, and important book.
10. **Double Helix** by Nancy Werlin. "Eli Samuels struggles with the knowledge that he has a 50/50 chance of getting Huntington's disease as he has watched his mother disintegrate as a result of having the wrong gene. When Eli takes a job at Wyatt Transgenics, he makes a startling discovery that connects his family to the genetic engineering experiments of famous geneticist Quincy Wyatt." (5.0 B.L.)
11. **The Greenhouse Effect: Warming the Planet** by Darlene Stille.
12. **The Hot Zone** by Richard Preston "The dramatic and chilling story of an Ebola virus outbreak

in a suburban Washington, D.C. laboratory, with descriptions of frightening historical epidemics of rare and lethal viruses. More hair-raising than anything Hollywood could think of, because it's all true." (7.3 B.L.)

13. **In the Shadow of Man** by Jane Goodall. First published in 1971, this book remains one of the most extraordinary observations of chimpanzee behavior in the wild. Goodall begins with the story of how she arrived in Africa and her first days there, but wisely switches the attention from herself to the endangered chimpanzees she studies. She not only recognizes individuals but learns their distinctive personalities, describing in compelling detail the smallest of moments that illuminate who these great animals are." (8.7 B.L.)
14. **Isaac Newton: Giants of Science** by Kathleen Krull. This second offering in the *Giants of Science* series profiles Sir Isaac Newton, the secretive, obsessive, and brilliant English scientist who invented calculus, built the first reflecting telescope, developed the modern scientific method, and discerned many of our laws of physics and optics. Engaging in limited speculation about Newton's personality, Krull recounts Newton's lonely childhood, his penchant for quiet reflection, and the difficulties that led to his feuding with other scientists.
15. **Life As We Knew It** by Susan Beth Pfeffer. The author tones down the terror, but otherwise crafts a frighteningly plausible account of the local effects of a near-future worldwide catastrophe. The prospect of an asteroid hitting the Moon is just a mildly interesting news item to Pennsylvania teenager Miranda, for whom a date for the prom and the personality changes in her born-again friend, Megan, are more immediate concerns. Her priorities undergo a radical change, however, when that collision shifts the Moon into a closer orbit, causing violent earthquakes, massive tsunamis, millions of deaths, and an upsurge in volcanism. In Miranda's day-by-day journal entries, however, Pfeffer keeps nearly all of the death and explicit violence offstage, focusing instead on the stresses of spending months huddled in increasingly confined quarters, watching supplies dwindle, and wondering whether there will be any future to make the effort worthwhile. The author provides a glimmer of hope at the end, but readers will still be left stunned and thoughtful.
16. **Rocket Boys** by Homer Hickam. "Inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team, 14-year-old Homer Hickam decided in 1957 to build his own rockets. They were his ticket out of Coalwood, West Virginia, a mining town that everyone knew was dying--everyone except Sonny's father, the mine superintendent and a company man so dedicated that his family rarely saw him. Hickam's smart, iconoclastic mother wanted her son to become something more than a miner and, along with a female science teacher, encouraged the efforts of his grandiosely named Big Creek Missile Agency. He grew up to be a NASA engineer and his memoir of the bumpy ride toward a gold medal at the National Science Fair in 1960--an unprecedented honor for a miner's kid--is rich in humor as well as warm sentiment." (5.9 B.L.)
17. **Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion** by Loree Griffin Burns. While the subtitle leads one to believe that the heart of this book is about the science of ocean currents, it's actually about why we need to protect our marine environment. Burns tells the tale of Dr. Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer who started to track trash (flotsam) that washed up on the shore near his Seattle home. Through floating sneakers and bath toys that accidentally fell off container ships and a computer program named OSCURS, Ebbesmeyer tracked the currents of the ocean. These experiments led to a discussion of how debris is polluting our oceans and causing harm to marine life. Burns introduces the work of several scientists who are working to clean up ghost nets and other dangerous debris. The well-written narration will keep readers engaged.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Choose one from this list. You will complete a book review when you return to school in the fall.)

1. **The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal** by Cheryl Harness. Account of the building and history of the Erie Canal. (BL 6.0)
2. **American Salve, American Hero: York of the Lewis and Clark Expedition** by Laurence Pringle. This book is an account of how William Clark's personal slave, York, helped the Lewis and Clark Expedition achieve its extraordinary success. (BL 6.2)
3. **Amos Fortune: Free Man** by Elizabeth Yates. This true story details the life of an African prince

- freedom, then married and started his own tannery business. (6.0 B.L.)
4. **April Morning** by Howard Fast. A boy endures a baptism by fire and becomes a man during the bloody Battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. (BL 6.1)
 5. **Ashes of Roses** by Mary Jane Auch. The author combines a classic immigration tale with the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in this spirited novel. The narrator, 16-year-old Rose Nolan, arrives at Ellis Island with her family, but right away they are beset by obstacles. The fast pacing sweeps readers from the initial confusion of Ellis Island to the horrific fire, while Auch supplies vivid period detail and strong female characters to build toward a hopeful conclusion.
 6. **The Back of Beyond: The Story About Lewis and Clark** by Andy Russell Bowe. An account of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition which took the explorers from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. (BL 6.8)
 7. **The Ballad of Lucy Whipple** by Karen Cushman. In 1849, twelve-year-old Lucy is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a small California mining town. Lucy helps run a rough boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to get "home". (5.3 B.L.)
 8. **Blood Gold** by Michael Cadnum. After an arduous journey, Will Dwindle and his friend Ben finally reach California in 1849 intending to bring home the man who betrayed the honor of a girl back home in Philadelphia, but find themselves tempted by the riches of the Gold Rush. (B.L. 7.2)
 9. **Brady** by Jean Fritz. Set in Pennsylvania in 1836, this story is from the point of view of station masters/conductors on the Underground Railroad. Brady, the young son of a conductor, has discovered that people in his town, and even some members of his family are helping freedom seekers. His father does not trust him with the secret and he must prove himself. (5.6 B.L.)
 10. **Bright Freedom's Song** by Gloria Houston. In the years before and during the Civil War, Bright discovers that her parents are providing a safe house for the Underground Railroad and helps to save many runaway slaves. (BL 5.7)
 11. **The California Gold Rush** by Barbara Saffer. The discovery of gold in California in the mid-19th century had a tremendous impact on the settlement of America's western region. This book discusses how gold miners helped to build some of California's greatest cities. (BL 7.4)
 12. **Chains** by Laurie Halse Anderson. In the spring of 1776, Isabel, a teenage slave, and her sister, Ruth, are sold to ruthless, wealthy loyalists in Manhattan. While running errands, Isabel is approached by rebels, who promise her freedom (and help finding Ruth, who has been sent away) if she agrees to spy. Using the invisibility her slave status brings, Isabel lurks and listens as Master Lockton and his fellow Tories plot to crush the rebel uprisings. Isabel finds that both patriots and loyalists support slavery.
 13. **Chasing Lincoln's Killer** by James L. Swanson. The YA version of Swanson's bestselling *Manhunt*, this account of Lincoln's assassination and the 12-day search for his killer reads like a historical thriller, no matter that the narrative jumps among its locations and characters. As President Lincoln delivers victory speeches in April 1865, an enraged John Wilkes Booth vows death: "Now, by God, I'll put him through." Every bit of dialogue is said to come from original sources, adding a chill to the already disturbing conspiracy that Swanson unfolds in detail as Booth persuades friends and sympathizers to join his plot and later, to give him shelter. The author gives even the well-known murder scene at Ford's Theatre enough dramatic flourish to make the subject seem fresh.
 14. **Civil War Doctor. The Story of Mary Walker** by Carla Joinson. This book tells the life story of Mary Edwards Walker, an abolitionist's daughter who chose not to wear the constricting women's fashions of her time, volunteered medical services in the Civil War, and fought for women's rights. (BL 9.4)
 15. **Clara Barton** by Leni Hamilton. Follows the life of the nurse who served on the battlefields of the Civil War and later founded the American Red Cross. (8.8 B.L.)
 16. **Come all you Brave Soldiers** by Clinton Cox. This book tells the story of the thousands of black men who served as soldiers, fighting for independence from England during the American Revolutionary War. (BL 8.9)
 17. **The Crucible** by Arthur Miller. This book is an introduction to Arthur Miller's play, THE CRUCIBLE, discussing the author's life, the impact of the play, its plot, cast of characters, literary criticism and pertinence for today's audiences. (9.0 B.L.)

18. [Cry of Courage](#) by Lee Roddy. Three friends struggle with the impact of the Civil War. Gideon is determined to escape the farm and become a writer. Emily, recently orphaned, learns to deal with her strong abolitionist views, and Nat, a slave boy, hopes for freedom. (BL 5.8)
19. [Emily Dickinson](#) by Victoria Olson. Describes the life and work of the reclusive poet. (7.6 B.L.)
20. [Fever 1793](#) by Laurie Halse Anderson. Philadelphia was the capital of the United States in 1793, the hub of the nation and the seat of President George Washington's government. Mattie, her mother, Lucinda, and Eliza, a member of the Free African Society run an inn in the city. Mattie's grandfather a veteran of the Revolutionary War also lives with them. When the yellow fever epidemic hits the wealthy flee the city and others are left to cope with the fear, ignorance and death the deadly disease brings. Mattie grows up quickly. The book is based on careful research with a fascinating and exciting story to tell. (4.4 B.L.)
21. [The Glory Field](#) by Walter Dean Myers. Spanning nearly 250 years of African American history, this emotionally charged saga of the Lewis family traces an ongoing battle for freedom and equality. Beginning with young Muhammad Bilal's journey from Africa in 1753 and ending with a 1990s family reunion set on the plantation where Muhammad was a slave, this series of resonant stories shows how each generation comes of age by taking a stand against oppression. (6.3 B.L.)
22. [The Great Little Madison](#) by Jean Fritz. Traces the life and contributions of the sickly child with the small voice who grew up to become the fourth president of the United States. (7.7 B.L.)
23. [Harriet Tubman, Freedombound](#) by Janet Bengé. This book presents a narrative biography of American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who escaped slavery and led others to freedom as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. The coauthor is Geoff Bengé. (BL 6.4)
24. [Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad](#) by Ann Petry. Courageous Black woman leads slaves to Freedom. (6.0 B.L.)
25. [House of Dies Drear](#) by Virginia Hamilton. This mystery concerns an African-American boy's move to Drear House, which had once played a part in the Underground Railroad. (6.0 B.L.)
26. [I, Juan de Pareja](#) by Elizabeth Borton De Trevino. After the slave Juan de Pareja is willed to the great Spanish painter Velázquez, their relationship changes from master/slave to equal/friend. (7.9 B.L.)
27. [In My Father's House](#) by Ann Rinaldi. For two sisters growing up surrounded by the Civil War, there is conflict both outside and inside their house. (7.2 B.L.)
28. [Island of the Blue Dolphins](#) by Scott O'Dell. This book portrays the courage and self-reliance of an Indian girl who lived alone for eighteen years on an isolated island off the California coast when her tribe emigrated and she was left behind. (6.4 B.L.)
29. [Jayhawker](#) by Patricia Beatty. In the early years of the Civil War, teenage Kansas farm boy Lije Tulley becomes a jayhawker, an abolitionist raider freeing slaves from the neighboring state of Missouri, and then goes undercover there as a spy. (BL 5.0)
30. [Johnny Tremain](#) by Esther Forbes. In this book, the process and influences behind the writing of Esther Forbes's novel, JOHNNY TREMAIN, is discussed. She won a Newbery Award in 1943 for this book, just a year after winning the Pulitzer Prize for her first novel. (8.1 B.L.)
31. [Jump Ship to Freedom](#) by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. In this sequel to WAR COMES TO WILLY FREEMAN, Daniel Arabus must escape from a ship to avoid certain slavery in the West Indies. The coauthor is Christopher Collier. (5.4 B.L.)
32. [The Light in the Forest](#) by Conrad Richter. A four-year-old white boy is adopted into an Indian warrior tribe. (6.8 B.L.)
33. [Lyddie](#) by Katherine Patterson. Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840's. (5.9)
34. [Mine Eyes Have Seen](#) by Ann Rinaldi. In the summer of 1859, fifteen-year-old Annie travels to the Maryland farm where her father, John Brown, is secretly assembling his provisional army prior to their raid on the United States arsenal at nearby Harpers Ferry. (4.1 B.L.)
35. [Morning Girl](#) by Michael Dorris. A young Taino girl goes swimming off her Bahamian island and meets Christopher Columbus' landing party in this vivid portrait of a Native American family and their culture (BL 4.9)
36. [My Brother, My Enemy](#) by Madge, Harragh. Determined to avenge the massacre of his family, Robert joins Nathaniel rebel army in hopes of wiping out the Susquehannock Indians of Virginia

(5.0 B.L.)

37. **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass** by Frederick Douglass. This is an autobiographical account by the runaway slave Frederick Douglass that chronicles his experiences with his owners and overseers, and discusses how slavery affected both slaves and slaveholders. (7.9 B.L.)
38. **Navajo Code Talkers** by Nathan Aaseng. The story of the Navajo Indians who served in World War II by using their ancient tribal language as a means of secret military communication. (8.7 B.L.)
39. **Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative** by Ignatia Broker. Ignatia Broker recounts the life of her great-great-grandmother, Night Flying Woman, who was born in the mid-19th century and lived during a chaotic time of enormous change, uprootings, and loss for the Minnesota Ojibway.
40. **The Nineteenth Amendment** by R. Conrad Stein. A history of the movement to grant women the right to vote in the United States, which culminated in the 19th amendment to the Constitution in 1920 that permitted them to do so. (7.5 B.L.)
41. **North Star Conspiracy** by Miriam Grace Monfredo. Glynis Tyron investigates the death of a freed slave and discovers shocking secrets about several abolitionists. (BL 6.1)
42. **Numbering All the Bones** by Ann Rinaldi. Thirteen-year-old Eulinda, a house slave on a Georgia plantation in 1864, turns to Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the American Red Cross, for help in finding her brother Neddy who ran away to join the Northern war effort and is rumored to be at Andersonville Prison. (4.2 B.L.)
43. **The Oregon Trail** by R. Conrad Stein. Depicts life on the Oregon Trail in the 1800s, as people traveled west in pursuit of their dreams. (7.4 B.L.)
44. **Perilous Road** by William Steele. This Newbery Honor book powerfully illustrates the sacrifices and waste of war and the true meaning of courage and tolerance. Chris, a Tennessee mountain boy, hates the Union army because Yankee riders have stolen his family's newly harvested crops and their only horse. In spite of this, Chris' brother joins the Union army, and his parents refuse to take either side. (4.7 B.L.)
45. **Phyllis Wheatley** by Merle Richmond. Traces the life of the black American poet who was born in Africa, brought over to New England as a slave, and published her first poem while still a teenager. (9.2 B.L.)
46. **The Red Badge of Courage** by Stephen Crane. This is the story of Henry Fleming, a young, inexperienced soldier in the American Civil War who has romantic notions of the hero he will be when he enters his first battle. Amidst the brutal realities of warfare, however, his illusions are shattered. (7.6 B.L.)
47. **The Rifle** by Gary Paulsen. A priceless, handcrafted rifle carried throughout the American Revolution is passed down through the years until it fires on a fateful Christmas Eve of 1994. (7.4 B.L.)
48. **Rifles for Watie** by Harold Keith. Sixteen-year-old Jeff cannot wait to join the Union army and fight against Stand Watie, leader of the Cherokee Indian rebels. (7.3 B.L.)
49. **Sandra Day O'Connor** by Peter Huber. Examines the life of the first woman Supreme Court justice, including her childhood, early career, and work as a judge. (8.3 B.L.)
50. **Sarah Bishop** by Scott O'Dell. With the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Sarah, a young New Yorker, finds herself fugitive from the British Army, living outside the law. (6.2 B.L.)
51. **Secrets of a Civil War Submarine Soldier** by Sally Walker. (8.2 B.L.)
52. **The Slave Dancer** by Paula Fox. In this spellbinding novel of suspense and survival, young Jessie, a musician, is hired to play for the slaves aboard a ship bound for America. (7.0 B.L.)
53. **Slopes of War: The Story of Gettysburg** by N.A. Perea. Buck Summerhill, a young soldier from Pennsylvania, faces the horrors of the Battle of Gettysburg, knowing that his two cousins, Custis and Mason, may be fighting against him in the Army of Northern Virginia. (BL 5.9)
54. **Sojourner Truth** by Peter Krass. The biography of the former slave who preached emancipation of the slaves and women's rights. (9.5 B.L.)
55. **Sojourner Truth and the Struggle for Freedom** by Edward Beecher Clafin. This book is a biography of the black woman who was born a slave and dedicated her life to the abolition of slavery and to improving the living conditions of blacks following the Civil War. (BL 6.8)

56. **Susan B. Anthony: Daring to Vote** by William Loren Katz. This book presents the highlights of the life of a nineteenth-century crusader who spent much of her life involved in the temperance, abolitionist, and women's rights movements. (BL 6.8)
57. **Susan B. Anthony** by Barbara Weisberg. A biography of an early leader in the campaign for women's rights, particularly in getting women the right to vote. (7.7 B.L.)
58. **The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle** by Avi. As the lone "young lady" on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. (7.2 B.L.)
59. **Two Girls of Gettysburg** by Lisa Klein. When the Civil War breaks out, two cousins, Lizzie and Rosanna, find themselves on opposite sides of the conflict until the war reunites them in the town of Gettysburg. (BL 5.8)
60. **Up From Slavery** by Booker T. Washington. The son of a slave, Booker Taliaferro Washington worked his way out the salt furnaces and coal mines to develop the esteemed Tuskegee Institute. This autobiographical work demonstrates his forceful and potent voice in the fight for African-American equality in turn-of-the-century America. (9.2 B.L.)
61. **Walk Across the Sea** by Susan Fletcher. In late nineteenth-century California, when Chinese immigrants are being driven out or even killed for fear they will take jobs from whites, fifteen-year-old Eliza Jane McCully defies the townspeople and her lighthouse-keeper father to help a Chinese boy who has been kind to her. (BL 4.3)
62. **Washington is Burning! The War of 1812** by Alvin Robert Cunningham. This book begins with a factual overview of the War of 1812 and then continues with a fictional story centering on Sophie Turner and her father, Cyrus. The Turners are slaves owned by President James Madison and his wife, Dolley. (BL 6.0)
63. **The Witch of Blackbird Pond** by Elizabeth Speare. Puritan neighbors regard Kit Tyler with suspicion, fear, and anger when she befriends an old woman accused of witchcraft. (6.3 B.L.)
64. **Why Not, Lafayette?** by Jean Fritz. This biography of Lafayette traces the life of the French nobleman, who fought for democracy in revolutions in both the United States and France. (BL 6.7)

Note: Book descriptions have been taken from a variety of sources including Amazon.com, "The School Library Journal", and the jackets of the books themselves.