

“Clean Books”

(also known as “Gentle Reads,” this list covers a range of ages)

Alcott, Louisa May

Little Women

Teen Center Fiction

Louisa May Alcott's chronicle of the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters is accompanied by textual variants and detailed explanatory annotations.

Anderson, M.T.

The Game of Sunken Places

Teen Center Fiction

When two boys stay with an eccentric relative at his mansion in rural Vermont, they discover an old-fashioned board game that draws them into a mysterious adventure.

Avi

Nothing But the Truth

Teen Center Pbk

A ninth-grader's suspension for singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" during homeroom becomes a national news story.

Bagnold, Enid

National Velvet

Children's Fiction

A fourteen-year-old English girl wins a horse in a raffle, trains it, and rides it in the Grand National steeplechase.

Carter, Ally

**I'd Tell you I Love You
But then I'd have to Kill You**

Teen Center Fic/Pbk

As a sophomore at a secret spy school and the daughter of a former CIA operative, Cammie is sheltered from "normal teenage life" until she meets a local boy while on a class surveillance mission. (*sequel: Cross my Heart and Hope to Spy; Don't Judge a Girl by her Cover*)

Cooney, Caroline

Driver's Ed

Teen Center Fiction

Three teenagers' lives are changed forever when they thoughtlessly steal a stop sign from a dangerous intersection and a young mother is killed in an automobile accident there.

Cooper, Susan

The Boggart

Children's Fiction

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

Cooper, Susan

The Dark is Rising

Children's Fiction

On his eleventh birthday Will Stanton discovers he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.

Creech, Sharon

Walk Two Moons

Teen Center Fiction

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

Cushman, Karen

Catherine Called Birdy

Teen Center Fiction

The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

Duprau, Jeanne

City of Ember (series)

Teen Center Fiction

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions

Farmer, Nancy

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm

Teen Center Fiction

In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine, while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.

Fox, Paula

One Eyed Cat

Children's Fiction

An eleven-year-old shoots a stray cat with his new air rifle, subsequently suffers from guilt, and eventually assumes responsibility for it.

Fox, Paula

Slave Dancer

Children's Fiction

Kidnapped by the crew of an Africa-bound ship, a thirteen-year-old boy discovers to his horror that he is on a slaver and his job is to play music for the exercise periods of the human cargo.

Hale, Shannon

The Goose Girl

Teen Center Fiction

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Hesse, Karen

The Music of Dolphins

Teen Center Fiction

After rescuing an adolescent girl from the sea, researchers learn she has been raised by dolphins and attempt to rehabilitate her to the human world.

Hesse, Karen

Out of the Dust

Teen Center Fiction

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Houston, Jeanne W.

Farewell to Manzanar

Teen Center Pbk

The true story of one Japanese-American family's attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the United States.

Ibbotson, Eva

The Star of Kazan

Children's Fiction

After twelve-year-old Annika, a foundling living in late nineteenth-century Vienna, inherits a trunk of costume jewelry, a woman claiming to be her aristocratic mother arrives and takes her to live in a strangely decrepit mansion in Germany.

Jacques, Brian

Redwall (Redwall series)

Teen Center Fiction

When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy.

Leavitt, Martine

Keturah and Lord Death

Teen Center Fiction

When Lord Death comes to claim sixteen-year-old Keturah while she is lost in the King's Forest, she charms him with her story and is granted a twenty-four hour reprieve in which to seek her one true love.

L'Engle, Madeleine

Ring of Endless Light

Children's Fiction

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.

Lewis, C.S.

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

Children's Fiction

Four English schoolchildren find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Lowry, Lois

The Giver

Teen Center Fiction

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.

McCaffrey, Anne **Dragonsong** **Teen Center Pbk**
Forbidden by her father to indulge in music in any way, a girl on the planet Pern runs away, taking shelter with the planet's fire lizards who, along with her music, open a new life for her.

McKillip, Patricia **Riddle-master of Hed** **Teen Center Fiction**
In seeking the answer to the riddle of the three stars on his forehead and the three stars on the enchanted harp and sword, Morgon, Prince of Hed, goes ultimately to the High One, himself.

McKinley, Robin **Blue Sword** **Children's Fiction**
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. (*other books by Robin McKinley*)

Oppel, Kenneth **Airborn** **Teen Center Fiction**
Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface. (*sequel: Skybreaker, Starclimber*)

Paterson, Katherine **Jacob Have I Loved** **Children's Fiction**
Having felt deprived all her life of schooling, friends, mother, and even her name by her twin sister, Louise finally begins to find her identity.

Paterson, Katherine **Lyddie** **Children's Fiction**
Impoverished Vermont farm girl Lyddie Worthen is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s.

Petersen, David **Mouse Guard: Fall, 1152** **Teen Center Graphic Novel**
Follows the adventures of Lieam, Saxon, and Kenzie, three mice who are part of the Mouse Guard--soldiers and guides for common mice looking to journey from one hidden mouse village to another--and their quest to uncover a traitorous plot against the Guard. (*Sequel: Mouse Guard, Winter, 1152*)

Paulsen, Gary **Nightjohn** **Teen Center Fiction**
Twelve-year-old Sarny's brutal life as a slave becomes even more dangerous when a newly arrived slave offers to teach her how to read.

Prachett, Terry **The Wee Free Men** **Teen Center Fiction**
Young witch-to-be Tiffany teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland. (*sequels: Hat Full of Sky; Wintersmith*)

Rylant, Cynthia **Missing May** **Children's Fiction**
After the death of the beloved aunt who has raised her, twelve-year-old Summer and her uncle Ob leave their West Virginia trailer in search of the strength to go on living.

Schmidt, Gary D. **Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy** **Teen Center Fiction**
In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine. Things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a community nearby founded by former slaves. But the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change it into a tourist spot.

Smith, Gordon **The Forest in the Hallway** **Teen Center Fiction**
Accompanied by a mysterious lost boy and a rowdy family with strange powers, fourteen-year-old Beatriz searches for her missing parents while evading a band of slave traders and a vengeful witch.

Spinelli, Jerry **Maniac Magee** **Children's Fiction**
After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Stoll, Clifford **The Cuckoo's Egg** **Nonfiction: 364.168 Stoll**
The story of an astronomer turned systems manager who discovered and infiltrated a spy ring after finding a hacker named 'Hunter' preying on his lab's network.

Tomlinson, Heather **The Swan Maiden** **Teen Center Fiction**
Raised as a chastelaine-in-training unlike her sisters who are learning the arts of sorcery, Doucette discovers when she is sixteen years old that she too has magic in her blood, and she must brave her mother's wrath--and the loss of the man she loves--in order to follow her birthright.

Verne, Julius **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** **Teen Center Pbk**
Professor Arronax joins a mission to hunt down a sea monster. He goes aboard the Nautilus, a secret submarine helmed by the mysterious Captain Nemo. When things start to go wrong, Arronax finds there's no escape from the Nautilus--20,000 leagues under the sea!

Voigt, Cynthia **Homecoming** **Teen Center Pbk**
Abandoned in a parking lot by their mother, who left them with a bag of sandwiches and the address of a distant great-aunt, Dicey, James, Maybeth, and Sammy Tillerman embark on an arduous and eventful journey.

Wallis, Velma **Two Old Women** **Nonfiction: 398.2 Wallis**
The story--with a surprise ending--of two elderly women abandoned by a migrating tribe that faces starvation brought on by unusually harsh Arctic weather and a shortage of fish and game.

White, T.H. **The Sword in the Stone** **Teen Center Fiction**
Recreates, against the background of medieval England, the education and training of young King Arthur, who was to become the greatest of Britain's legendary rulers.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls **Little House on the Prairie** **Children's Fiction**
A family travels from the big woods of Wisconsin to a new home on the prairie, where they build a house, meet neighboring Indians, build a well, and fight a prairie fire.

Wilson, N.D. **100 Cupboards** **Children's Fiction**
After his parents are kidnapped, timid twelve-year-old Henry York leaves his sheltered Boston life and moves to small-town Kansas, where he and his cousin Henrietta discover and explore hidden doors in his attic room that seem to open onto other worlds. (*Sequel: Dandelion Fire*)

Wrede, Patricia **Sorcery and Cecilia** **Teen Center Fiction**
In 1817 in England, two young cousins, Cecilia living in the country and Kate in London, write letters to keep each other informed of their exploits, which take a sinister turn when they find themselves confronted by evil wizards.

Yolen, Jane **The Sword of the Rightful King** **Teen Center Pbk**
Merlennus the magician devises a way for King Arthur to prove himself the rightful king of England--pulling a sword from a stone--but trouble arises when someone else removes the sword first.