

Armstrong, Jennifer. *Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World.* Describes the events of the 1914 Shackleton Antarctic expedition when, after being trapped in a frozen sea for nine months, their ship, *Endurance*, was finally crushed, forcing Shackleton and his men to make a very long and perilous journey across ice and stormy seas to reach inhabited land.

Cappuzzo, Mike. *Close to Shore: The Terrifying Shark Attacks of 1916.* Details the first documented cases of sharks attacking humans off the coast of New Jersey in 1916.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts.* A 12 year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when the guards families lived on the Island. He has to deal with an extraordinary environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

DeLaney, Joseph. *The Last Apprentice.* When 12-year-old Thomas, seventh son of a seventh son, is apprenticed to the local Spook, whose job is to fight evil spirits and witches, he expects a life of danger. However, the boy doesn't realize just how soon he'll face a powerful enemy alone, as Mother Malkin escapes her confinement while the Spook is away.

Dowell, Francis O'Rourke. *Dovey Coe.* When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong willed 12 year old girl, comes to a new understanding of others.

Gardner, Sally. *I Coriander.* Set during the English restoration. When Coriander's Royalist father flees political enemies, she is left with an odious stepmother and a wrathful Puritan minister. After a particularly harsh punishment, Coriander awakens in another world, where she discovers that her real mother was a fairy princess and that her human guardians serve a destructive fairy queen.

Grant, KM. *Blood Red Horse.* Onlookers scoff when 13-year-old William de Granville chooses Hosanna, a charismatic red stallion with a puny, impractical build, for his first warhorse. But after what seems to be a miraculous recovery from a grave injury, Hosanna earns widespread respect and a celebrated place in the campaign for Jerusalem, which William and his elder brother, Gavin, have zealously joined. Left behind is Ellie, who is promised to Gavin but feels more connected to William. Awaiting the Crusaders is the noble strategist Saladin and his young ward, Kamil, who eventually lays claim to Hosanna--and is similarly inspired by the horse's soulful presence.

Hiaason, Carl. *Flush.* Noah Underwood's dad has sunk the gambling ship, the *Coal Queen*, in protest. Now the elder Underwood is launching a media campaign from his jail cell to raise public awareness since the sewage-spewing ship will soon be back in operation. After a few false starts, the siblings come up with a plan to use food coloring to expose the hazardous dumping.

Heinlein, Robert A. *Space Cadet.* Only the best and brightest and the most courageous ever become Cadets, at the Space Academy. They are in training to become the elite guard of the solar system, taking risks no others dare, and upholding the peace of the solar system for the benefit of all. Before Matt Dodson can earn his rightful place in the ranks, his mettle is to be tested in the most severe and extraordinary ways--ways that change him from the midwestern American boy into a man of the Solar Patrol.

Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean.* Martha Boyle and Olive Barstow could have been friends. But they weren't—and now all that is left are eerie connections between two girls who were in the same grade at school and who both kept the same secret without knowing it. Now Martha can't stop thinking about Olive. A family summer on Cape Cod should help banish those thoughts; instead they seep in everywhere.

Hunter, Mollie. *The King's Swift Rider.* Unwilling to fight, but feeling a sense of duty, 16 year old Martin joins Scotland's rebel army as a swift rider and master of espionage for the leader, Robert the Bruce.

Jacques, Brian. *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman.* A boy and dog trapped aboard the legendary ship, the Flying Dutchman, are sent off on an eternal journey by an avenging angel, roaming the earth throughout the centuries in search of those in need. Their travels lead them to a sleepy nineteenth century village whose very existence is at stake. Only by discovering the buried secrets and solving the dust-laden riddles of the ancient village can it be saved.

Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon.* Moon, 10, has spent most of his life in a camouflaged shelter in the forest with his father, a Vietnam veteran who distrusts people and the government. Pap has educated him in both academics and survival skills. His life suddenly changes his father dies. A neighbor discovers him and, believing what he is doing is best for the child, turns him over to the local boys home. Once at the home, though, Moon makes his first real friends and learns what friendship is all about. Much of the story revolves around multiple chases, captures, and escapes. The ending is a happy one for Moon.

Korman, Gordon. *Schooled.* Home schooled on an isolated "alternate farm commune" that has dwindled since the 1960s to 2 members, 13-year-old Cap has always lived with his grandmother, Rain. When she is hospitalized, Cap is taken in by a social worker and sent—like a lamb to slaughter—to middle school. Smart and capable, innocent and inexperienced (he learned to drive on the farm, but he has never watched television), long-haired Cap soon becomes the butt of pranks. He reacts in unexpected ways and, in the end, elevates those around him to higher ground

Lupica, Mike. *Heat.* When Michael Arroyo is on the baseball diamond, everything feels right. He's a terrific pitcher who dreams of leading his South Bronx All-Stars to the Little League World. Michael's ultimate dream is to play in the major leagues. His father died leaving Michael and his older brother, Carlos, to struggle along on their own.

Lupica, Mike. *Travel Team.* Twelve-year-old Danny Walker may be the smallest kid on the basketball court—but don't tell him that. Because no one plays with more heart or court sense. But none of that matters when he is cut from his local travel team, the very same team his father led to national prominence as a boy. Danny's father, still smarting from his own troubles, knows Danny isn't the only kid who was cut for the wrong reason, and together, this washed-up former player and a bunch of never-say-die kids prove that the heart simply cannot be measured.

Lynch, Chris. *Gold Dust.* In 1975, 12-year-old Richard befriends Napoleon, a Caribbean newcomer to his Catholic school. Hoping that he will learn to love baseball and the Red Sox, and will win acceptance in the racially polarized Boston School.

Miller, Kirsten. *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City.* Ananka Fishbein, a seventh grader at an expensive New York City school, likens her life to flavorless mush. But when she wakes up one Saturday morning and finds that the small park across the street has become a sinkhole, her decision to explore it transforms her existence. She meets the mysterious Kiki Strike, and subsequently the group of girls (each with a particular talent) who call themselves the Irregulars, and they embark on an adventure that involves exploring the Shadow City, a series of tunnels under Manhattan.

Murphy, Jim *An American Plague.* History, science, politics and public health come together in this dramatic account of the disastrous yellow fever epidemic that hit the nation's capital more than 200 years ago.

Oppel, Ken. *Airborn.* In a future where airships and blimps travel across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, cabin boy Matt Cruse, on board the Aurora, battles pirates and prehistoric cloudcats.

Paulsen, Gary. *Guts, or How I Lived the Same as Brian Robeson.* The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Robeson.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *All Alone in the Universe.* Debbie is dismayed when her best friend, Maureen, starts spending time with ordinary, boring Glenna.

Pratchett, Terry. *The Wee Free Men.* Tiffany is all that stands between the monsters of Fairyland and her home. She allies herself with the local NacMacFee or the Wee Free Men, a clan of sheep-stealing, sword-wielding, six-inch high blue men who are as fierce as they are funny.

Riordan, Rick. *The Lightning Thief.* Perseus, aka Percy Jackson, thinks he has big problems. His father left before he was born, he's been kicked out of six schools in six years, he's dyslexic, and he has ADHD. What a surprise when he finds out that that's only the tip of the iceberg: he vaporizes his pre-algebra teacher, learns his best friend is a satyr, and is almost killed by a minotaur before his mother manages to get him to the safety of Camp Half-Blood—where he discovers that Poseidon is his father. But that's a problem, too. Poseidon has been accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt, and unless Percy can return the bolt, humankind is doomed.

Roberts, Kristi. *My Thirteenth Season.* After moving to a new town, star baseball player Fran Cullers discovers that she is not welcome on the boys' team. Her father's grief over her mother's recent death prevents him from being much support or help. Although the coach is removed from the team for his abuse toward her, Fran is badly shaken and falls into a slump. She decides to give up the game, but finds that living without baseball is like living without her mom.

Roberts, Judson. *Viking Warrior.* Halfdan is the son of a Viking Chieftain and an Irish Princess, but he is a slave until his mother sacrifices her life to give him his freedom and a chance to regain his birthright. This book is a real page turner!

Schmidt, Gary D. *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy.* From the sad and shameful actual destruction of an island community in 1912, Schmidt weaves an evocative novel.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Midnighters: The Secret Hour.* A few nights after Jessica Day arrives in Bixby, Oklahoma, she wakes up at midnight to find the entire world frozen, except for her and a few others who call themselves 'midnighters'. Dark things haunt this midnight hour with a mysterious interest in Jessica.