

# English Language Arts

*Grades 7-9*

**Selecting Young Adult Texts:  
An Annotated Bibliography**



***2012***

# Acknowledgements

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# Introduction

## Purpose

*Selecting Young Adult Texts, Grades 7-9*, is designed to complement the curriculum documents that describe the prescribed curriculum for Intermediate English language arts:

- *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum*
- *English Language Arts: A Curriculum Guide, Grades 7-9*
- *English Language Arts: Grade 7 (2010 Interim Edition)*
- *English Language Arts: Grade 8 (2011 Interim Edition)*
- *English Language Arts: Grade 9 (2012 Interim Edition)*

*Selecting Young Adult Texts, Grades 7-9* provides annotations and a list of suggested texts for student-selected wide reading and teacher-supported novel study. There is a comprehensive cross section of fantasy/science fiction, realistic and historical fiction, poetry and informational books, traditional and contemporary literature. Lists of professional literature and web sites are intended to assist teachers in acquiring additional information about young adult texts as well as approaches to teaching and learning.

The *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum* (1996) states that, “Principals and other school administrators can support learning and teaching English language arts by working with English language arts teachers to ensure that the variety of resources and experiences available meet the needs of all learners” (p. 44). It points out that “Teachers are responsible for ensuring student access to a range of learning resources” (p. 44). *Selecting Young Adult Texts, Grades 7-9* provides valuable assistance to classroom teachers, principals, and resource teachers/librarians as they build quality literature collections within individual classrooms and school resource centres. The suggested titles can provide opportunities for cross-curricular reading and support students’ growing independence in choosing texts to read.

## Literature in the Grades 7-9 ELA Curriculum

Literature is a valued component in the Intermediate English language arts curriculum. It plays an important but not exclusive role, allowing students to see reflections of themselves as they explore the spectrum of human experience, offering them the opportunity to experience vicariously the times, places, cultures, situations, and values vastly different from their own. The reader takes on other roles and discovers other voices. Reading literature shapes students’ conceptions of the world and is an unlimited resource for insights into what it is to be human.

Identifying and assessing the ideas and values inherent in contemporary, adolescent, and world literature helps students to explore, clarify, and

defend their own ideas and values. These experiences allow students to engage in conversations about the literature with their peers, giving shape to their own lives and sharing their own stories. Such conversations help students to discover, for example, how their own ideas on topics such as friendship, family, love, hate, honesty, dishonesty, hope or despair are similar to or different from those of others.

Reading literature is an invaluable experience for students. Through it, students gain

- the satisfaction of the lived-through experience;
- the sense of pleasure in the medium of language;
- the complex interaction of emotion and intellect as they respond to the images, ideas and interpretations evoked by the text.

Wide reading of young adult literature provides exemplary models for language development. As students internalize the structures and conventions of particular genres, get ideas for themes and topics, and notice interesting techniques, they are building their ability to read, view, write and speak.

## Expectations for Reading in the Grades 7-9 ELA Curriculum

In English language arts, students are expected to *select, read, and view with understanding a range of literature, information, media, and visual texts*. As well, they are expected to *respond personally and critically to a range of texts, applying their understanding of language, form, and genre*. These general curriculum outcomes are the work of all English language arts students. The specific curriculum outcomes expect students to be able to:

<b>Identify and select</b> texts that meet their needs and interests	
<p><b>Think about</b> how meaning is created in texts through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The author’s use of text features and structure</li> <li>• The author’s use of language, form and genre</li> <li>• The author’s intended purpose</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reflect on</b> their responses to texts by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking about how their point of view on issues, themes and situations is impacted by what they read</li> <li>• Considering how diverse values, cultures and realities are presented in texts</li> </ul>
Think about and practice different reading and viewing strategies to <b>develop their independence</b> in accessing and navigating texts	

These types of activities demonstrate an emphasis on texts as a means of acquiring vicarious experiences, building reading strategies, and enhancing students' abilities to respond both personally and critically to the books they read and view. As students respond personally and critically to texts, they simultaneously turn attention to their curriculum outcomes for speaking, listening, writing and representing. In short, reading and responding to texts provides opportunity for students in grades 7-9 to address curriculum outcomes that span all English language arts processes.

In the Intermediate English language arts curriculum, students are invited to experience and create text, allowing the experience to stimulate images, associations, feelings and thoughts, so that the text becomes personally significant to them. Literature is offered as a series of experiences that adolescents can enter into and explore, rather than as a fixed body of information about specific texts, authors and terminology. Meaning is central to literature study. Knowledge of genre, for example, develops from and supports the search for meaning. While exploring the features of various genres, teachers should keep in mind that their purpose is not to teach the technicalities of genre analysis but to bring students and texts together in intellectually and emotionally productive ways. Knowledge about the features of various types of texts becomes important to the degree that such knowledge enables students to

- recognize the effectiveness of the use of a particular technique;
- deepen their understanding as they think;
- talk about their interactions with texts;
- grow increasingly confident in their ability to make critical and aesthetic judgements.

While it is important that students study some works in detail, a key aspect of the English language arts curriculum, grades 7-9, is supporting young adults' skills in directing their own reading and viewing choices. They need opportunities to read and reflect on the issues and messages in diverse texts, both to give them pleasure and to extend their understanding. Small-group discussions, such as those that occur within literature circles, can foster students' capacities to respond personally and critically to literature. They should be encouraged to talk to each other about their reading and viewing.

## Novels

**CHECK IT OUT**

Miller, Donalyn  
*The Book Whisperer*  
(Jossey-Bass, 2009)

Reading in all genres of literature, informational texts and digital texts is essential to the development of a flexible, fluent reader. However, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century when many texts, particularly media texts, offer more visuals and less print, the novel has an increasingly important place in students' lives. The novel offers an opportunity for sustained reading; it provides an environment that becomes part of the students' experience in a way that shorter selections do not, simply because they are shorter and readers do not live in them very long.

The novel offers students extended time to identify with characters and thereby grow in understanding of themselves and others. They can identify with and live through the exploits of fictitious characters. Wide reading experiences with novels can help them to

- broaden their experiences;
- develop their imagination;
- develop as life-long readers;
- improve their reading power;
- become aware of how authors use their talents and skills to create stories (i.e., development of plot and character, effective use of words, sentences, conversations, images, organization, etc.);
- develop increased awareness of text forms and literary elements;
- reflect on the emotions and opinions elicited by a novel.

## Criteria for Selecting Young Adult Texts

The titles listed in this document have been carefully selected to adhere to the criteria as set forth on page 54 of *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum* (1996). The selections

- provide motivating and challenging experiences suitable for the learner's age, ability and social maturity;
- elicit personal, thoughtful critical responses;
- represent a range of styles and text forms;
- have literary merit;
- use language effectively and responsibly, and use language that is essential to the text;
- broaden students' understanding of social, historical, geographical and cultural diversity;
- develop sensitivity and understanding that reflects individual qualities such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, community influences and political/social values.

While every book listed in this document has received a careful review according to the criteria listed above, teachers should always exercise particular care in selecting or recommending texts to students. Teachers are in the best positions to know both their students and the communities in which they live.

The broad selection of titles listed in this document

- includes prose that deals with issues and ideas related to students' experiences and their evolving understanding of themselves and the world, and texts that they perceive as relevant to their own lives;
- balances traditional texts with more contemporary ones, including texts which bring new or previously under-represented voices into the classroom;
- allows students to explore their own and others' cultural and literary heritage;
- includes texts that can be paired or linked to provide for text-to-text connections;
- provides support for both the independent and the collaborative writing, speaking and representing strands of the curriculum.

Teachers and administrators may continue to refer to *Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography* for additional assistance when selecting learning resources for their classrooms and school resource centres. As well, the section entitled "Resources" in *Foundation for the Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum* (pp. 54-56) provides further guidance to teachers in the selection and presentation of learning resources.

## Grade Levels

Suggested grade levels are noted for each title listed in *Selecting Young Adult Texts: An Annotated Bibliography*. They include the following:

- Lower Intermediate
- Middle Intermediate
- Upper Intermediate
- Intermediate

These recommendations are based on reading level as well as content. Titles recommended for **Lower** Intermediate, for example, will have a lower reading level than **Upper** Intermediate and will have less mature content and themes. Titles listed as **Intermediate** should be accessible and of interest to a broad range of students in Grades 7-9. These recommendations are guidelines only; selection decisions should be made by teachers and students.

## Alternate Formats

Each annotation includes, where applicable, information regarding alternate formats. Some titles are available in formats other than paper. These formats include:

- **Digital audio (MP3):** A format where the text is automatically read to the student but the actual words are not visible on the screen. These can be played on a personal MP3 audio player or any computer with audio software.
- **E-text files (Kurzweil, PDF or WORD):** A format which requires text to voice software and results in the student hearing a computer generated voice read the text while the text being read is highlighted on the computer screen.
  - **PDF** format provides an online version of the text (including pictures and diagrams). Adobe Reader and other text-to-voice software will allow the student to hear the text being read aloud while following it on the screen.
  - **WORD** format provides a copy of just the text (without pictures and diagrams). Some text-to-voice software will also read aloud WORD files.
  - **Kurzweil** format requires Kurzweil software which is usually used by students at Grade 7 and above as the software is sophisticated but has text-to-voice capabilities, note taking and more.
- **Commercial Audio CDs:** A CD set which contains MP3 files where the text is automatically read to the student but the actual words are not visible on the screen. The CD is loaned to the student and must be returned at the end of the school year.

All of these formats are available in an offline format for those communities with less reliable Internet access or for students who do not have Internet access at home. These CDs are loaned to the student and must be returned at the end of the school year.

When selecting texts for a classroom library to promote wide reading by students, teachers may consider accessibility for all students as part of the decision. Students may have access to alternate format materials only if they have had a comprehensive assessment that indicates that the student has an exceptionality (as defined by the Department of Education) and a perceptual disability (as defined by the Canadian Copyright Act). In addition, the student's Record of Accommodations indicates that he or she requires alternate format materials.

# Genre Definitions

Contemporary/Realistic	Realistic fiction creates imaginary characters and situations that depict our world and society. It focuses on themes of growing up and confronting personal and social problems. It portrays characters coming to understand themselves and others.
Fantasy	Fantasy tells imaginary tales of make believe lands, creatures and people. Magic is often a major facet in fantasy and readers must willingly enter the writer's realm to understand this other world. Fantasy will usually develop characters who wrestle with the nature of good and evil. Many of the themes of fantasy can be reflected in the contemporary genre but the setting and the characters extend beyond the confines of realistic fiction.
Graphic Novels	Graphic novels present stories using visual frames to support dialogue. They are very similar to comic books in format but they often offer provocative and complex plots that engage young readers. Graphic novels differ from comics in that they deal with character growth and development as well as challenging thematic concepts.
Historical	Historical fiction describes fictionalized stories that are set in the past. The details of the time and place are usually authentic and accurate and may contain documented historical figures. Other characters, including the protagonist, are often fictionalized. Historical fiction can be closely aligned with realistic fiction as the characters may be dealing with themes of growth and their place in society, which is common in contemporary fiction.
Horror	The horror genre emerges from the fantasy genre. It concentrates on the dark aspects of fantasy and its goal is to frighten the reader. Its pages are populated by demons, vampires and ghosts and its settings are usually dark and isolated locations. As in the fantasy genre, readers have to engage willingly with the text and to use their imaginations. A common attribute in horror literature is the battle between the hero(ine) and the forces of evil.

Informational and Nonfiction	Informational books are those which explain known facts about specific topics. These texts must not only be accurate but they must also present the information so that it is easily understood. Illustrations are often included to extend the concepts as described in the books.
Mixed Media	This type of text has a variety of sources and images. It may include different writing forms, visuals, emails, manipulatives, charts, etc. The reader has to be flexible in order to create meaning from the pages because the meaning does not emerge in a traditional, linear manner.
Mystery	Mystery novels emphasize plot. Usually, the protagonist is seeking an answer to a crime or to a mysterious event. Characteristics of this style of writing include suspense and a fast paced style.
Picture Books	These books are often associated with younger readers as the text may appear to be simple and there are many illustrations to support the text. However, often the text and illustrations can be brought to a higher level of reflection to develop critical understandings for older learners. They often convey a powerful and thought provoking message.
Poetry	Poetry encompasses many diverse forms and subjects. Some of these forms include free verse, blank verse, limericks, haiku, and so on. Poetry expresses intense emotions and reflections as it is usually written in a compressed form.
Traditional	Traditional literature consists of ancient stories and tales that were originally preserved by the use of oral traditions and were later written down. It is often formulaic and explains some kind of natural phenomena or moral teaching.
Verse Novels	Verse novels tell the story by using verse instead of using full sentences organized in paragraph structures.

# Annotations (organized alphabetically by Author)

Almond, David

Title: *Skellig*

ISBN: 0440229081

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

Date: 2001

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Awards: Printz Honor

Ten-year-old Michael is coping with a lot. His new baby sister is dangerously ill, his new house is crumbling down around him, and he is caring for a strange creature he has found in his garage. Michael and Mina, his new friend, nurse Skellig back to health as he tries to understand exactly who or what Skellig is.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF (etext); commercial CDs

Anderson, Laurie  
Halse

Title: *Speak*

ISBN: 9780142414736

Publisher: Puffin

Date: 2009

Genre: Contemporary

Awards: National Book Award Finalist

This is the challenging and gritty story of Melinda, an isolated teenager who has virtually lost the ability to speak. Following a party over the summer holidays, she spends the better part of a year being alienated and harassed by the students in her school. Melinda's pain and self-discovery evokes empathy from the reader and questions about the strength necessary to be truly brave. This book deals with complex and mature subjects.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Bennett, Cheri

Title: *Anne Frank and Me*

Publisher: Puffin USA

ISBN 0-689-11973-8

Date: 2002

Genre: Historical Fiction, Fantasy

Awards: International Reading Association/Children's Book Council

"Children's Choice" (2002); Double nominee, ALA "Best Books for Young Adults and YALSA "Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers" (2002)

During a class field trip to a Holocaust exhibit, Nicole falls and suffers a head injury. When she regains consciousness, she discovers that she has been mysteriously transported back in time as a Jewish teenager to Paris during the Nazi occupation. The first person narration engages the reader in a personal account of the experiences of French Jews during the Second World War.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Boyne, John

Title: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*

ISBN: 85751532

Publisher: Random House

Date: 2007

Genre: Historical

Awards: Irish Book Award Children's Book of the Year, Irish Book Award People's Choice Book of the Year

*The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* is set during 1942 and is told from the perspective of a young German boy, Bruno. His father has just been promoted and the family is compelled to move to an isolated location. Bruno decides to explore along the long fence one day and meets another young boy whose life is very different from his own. Their friendship results in tragedy. This is a powerful rendering of the Holocaust and its devastating effects upon children.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* Kurzweil, PDF, Word (etext)

## Bray, Libba

Title: *A Great and Terrible Beauty*

ISBN: 0385732317

Publisher: Delacorte

Date: 2003

Genre: Horror, Fantasy, Historical

After the suspicious death of her mother in 1895, sixteen year old Gemma returns to England after many years in India, to attend a finishing school where she becomes aware of her magical powers and ability to see into the spirit world.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs

Buchanan, Andrea  
J. and Miriam  
Peskovitz

Title: *The Daring Book for Girls*  
ISBN: 978-0-06-147257-2  
Publisher: Collins  
Date: 2007  
Genre: Informational

*The Daring Book for Girls* is the companion manual for *The Dangerous Book for Boys*. Wide ranging topics include How to Negotiate a Salary, Cootie Catchers, Friendship Bracelets, and How to Be a Spy. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations in the text. Readers can dip in and dip out with ease. There is something for every girl here.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Buffie, Margaret

Title: *Who is Frances Rain?*  
ISBN: 0-919964-83-4  
Publisher: Kids Can Press Ltd.  
Date: 1989  
Genre: Fantasy, Mystery

Fifteen-year old girl Elizabeth with her family, including a new step-dad, vacation at her grandmother's cottage for the summer holidays. While exploring the mysterious Rain Island, Lizzie discovers a mysterious pair of glasses that take her back to the past. She embarks on a journey of discovery that connects her past to the present.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

Choldenko, Gennifer

Title: *Al Capone Does My Shirts*  
ISBN: 01 42403709  
Publisher: Penguin Young Reader Group  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Awards: Newbery Honour Book

Moose Flannigan lives on Alcatraz with his family where his dad works as a prison guard. Natalie, his sister who has autism, is Moose's responsibility. Moose tries to meet the demands of caring for her but this becomes increasingly challenging as his friendship with the warden's daughter grows.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* Kurzweil, PDF (etext)

Clarke, Joan

Title: *The Word for Home*  
Publisher: Penguin Books  
ISBN 0-14-100502-5  
Date: 2002  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Awards: Children's Choice Award 2004

This is a beautifully written, award winning, Newfoundland and Labrador novel about young sisters who are left in the care of the mean-spirited Mrs. Hatch (or Sour Olive as the girls prefer to call her) after their mother dies and their father leaves them to look for gold.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

Colfer, Eoin and  
Andrew Donkin

Title: *Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel*  
ISBN: 078684882  
Publisher: Hyperion Books  
Date: 2007  
Genre: Graphic Novel, Fantasy

*Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel* retains the original intent of the novel of the same title. The twelve year old brilliant Artemis Fowl is engaged in shady money making schemes that involve stealing secret fairy information and kidnapping an officer in the fairy army, Captain Holly Short. The fairy troops come to negotiate with Artemis Fowl. An innovative look at the subterranean world of dwarves, elves, and gnomes, this graphic novel with its action-packed, full-colour panels will be sure to appeal to young adolescent readers.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

Collins, Suzanne

Title: *The Hunger Games*  
ISBN: 9780439023528  
Publisher: Scholastic  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Science Fiction  
Awards: Cybil Award – Fantasy & Science Fiction, Children's Choice Book Award

16 year-old Katniss lives in Panem, a post-apocalyptic country comprised of Districts governed by a dictatorial Capitol. To demonstrate its power and to sustain its rule by fear, each year the Capitol conscripts two young adults from each District to compete in the Hunger Games. Through competition and the unlikeliest of heroes, the story presents a shocking examination of society's expectations for success and its impact on the individual.

Other titles in the series: *Catching Fire*, *Mockingjay*

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

## Covey, Sean

Title: *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make: A Guide for Teens*

ISBN: 9780743265041

Publisher: Fireside

Date: 2006

Genre: Contemporary, Informational

In *The 6 Most Important Decisions You'll Ever Make*, Sean Covey gives teens the strong advice they need to make informed and wise decisions. Using real stories from teens around the world, Sean shows how to succeed in school, make good friends, get along with parents, wisely handle dating and sex issues, avoid or overcome addictions, build self-esteem, and much more.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Creech, Sharon

Title: *Love that Dog*

ISBN: 0064409597

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2003

Genre: Poetic verse

*Love that Dog* is told in verse through a series of written responses from the main character, Jack, to his teacher, Miss Stretchberry. It transpires over the course of a full school year. Jack's responses reveal his growth as a writer and his love of his dog. He becomes very interested in Walter Dean Myers, another writer. This is a beautiful and inspiring tale.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs

## Dr. Seuss

Title: *The Butter Battle Book*

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers

ISBN 0-394-86580-4

Date: 1984

Genre: Picture book, Satire

Awards: New York Times Notable Book of the Year (1983)

This satirical book tells the story of the Yooks and the Zooks who disagree on how bread should be eaten: the Yooks eat it butter-side down and the

Zooks eat it butter-side up. Over the years, their conflict worsens until total destruction becomes eminent. The story is a metaphor for Cold War mentalities that continue to pervade stereotypes and assumptions of today.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

Donnelly, Jennifer

Title: *A Northern Light*

ISBN: 0152053107

Publisher: Harcourt, Inc.

Date: 2003

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Carnegie Medal Winner, Printz Honor Book Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults by the ALA; Named a Best Book of 2003

Based on a true story, Donnelly weaves fact with fiction as we read this coming of age story about Mattie and the power of words. Historical fiction set in 1906, this novel explores life at the time and details the self-sacrifices made by many of the characters. Two plots are woven together; the first tells of murder, and the second, reveals Mattie and her desire to write.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

DuPrau, Jeanne

Title: *The City of Ember*

ISBN: 978-0375822742

Publisher: Yearling

Date: 2004

Genre: Science fiction

In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day with Doon. She wants to be a messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city while Doon wants to be an underground pipe worker to figure out how to mend the essential but failing generator. It isn't until Lina and Doon manage to decipher a mysterious letter and become the first people to leave the city in 241 years that they discover they have been living underground. This is the first Book of Ember - an exciting science fiction series. A movie of the same name was released in 2008.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs, PDF (etext)

Ellis, Deborah

Title: *Parvana's Journey*

ISBN: 0888995199

Publisher: Greenwood

Date: 2002

Genre: Realistic Fiction

This is the second novel in *The Breadwinner* series. The story continues with Parvana, now 13 years old, disguised as a boy and travelling through war-torn Afghanistan, separated from her best friend, Shauzia. The reader is taken on a compelling and eye opening journey through poverty, danger and the harsh conditions that forces children to grow up quickly. The novel is written with powerful and sincere themes that speak to a wide range of audiences.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF (etext)

Title: *Mud City*

ISBN: 0888995423

Publisher: Greenwood

Date: 2003

Genre: Realistic Fiction

This is the third novel in *The Breadwinner* series. This story further develops Shauzia's story, now 14 years old, and her life in a refugee camp in Pakistan, separated from her best friend, Parvana. Shauzia continues to struggle for independence amid life-threatening conditions. The author's careful presentation of complex political and historical details will engage a wide range of audiences.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF, Word (etext)

Ellis, Sarah

Title: *Odd Man Out*

ISBN: 0888997035

Publisher: House of Anansi

Date: 2006

Genre: Realistic, Fiction

Kip is spending the summer with his grandmother and his eccentric female cousins while his mother is away with her new husband. His grandmother's house is going to be torn down so there are very relaxed rules. When Kip beats in a closet, he discovers a mysterious binder

belonging to his deceased father. The binder contains bizarre information written from the perspective of an undercover agent. However, the truth about his father is revealed at the family talent night when Kip shares what he has discovered.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Fisher, Suzanne

Title: *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*

ISBN: 0440238560

Publisher: Laurel Leaf

Date: 1989

Genre: Realistic Fiction

The title character, Shabanu, is very strong willed and has been allowed many freedoms that are not traditionally permitted to Muslim girls. Her life of comparative independence and her regular routines are called into question when the marriage plans of her sister are abruptly altered.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Fleischman, Paul

Title: *Seedfolks*

ISBN: 0064472078

Publisher: Harper Trophy

Date: 1997

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Newbery Medal

Written in vignettes through the voices of thirteen multiple characters from various backgrounds, this story is about developing a community garden in an urban American setting. The themes connect the seemingly disparate characters and celebrate their differences.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs

Funke, Cornelia

Title: *Inkheart*

ISBN: 0439709105

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2005

Genre: Fantasy

*Inkheart* relates the magical story of Maggie's father who is able to bring characters from books to life when he reads aloud. Maggie is forced to face several of these evil characters in a series of adventures. Funke

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creates a plausible fantasy world populated by both real and otherworldly characters replete with vivid descriptions.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* Kurzweil, PDF, Word (etext)

## Gardner, Olivia

Title: *Letters to a Bullied Girl*

ISBN: 9780061544620

Publisher: Harper Collins

Date: 2008

Genre: Informational

This collection of letters brings to light the severity of bullying during the teenage years, offering a balanced viewpoint from the perspectives of bullies, bystanders and the victims of bullying. The many letters of support written to Olivia via a letter-writing campaign from two strangers, sisters Emily and Sarah Buder, shows the power of human compassion.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Giff, Patricia Reilly

Title: *A House of Tailors*

ISBN: 10- 0440238005

Publisher: Yearling

Date: 2006

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Maine Student Book Master List

Dina Kirk leaves her family in Germany very suddenly to join her uncle in Brooklyn, New York. She has an amazing talent for sewing but she hates it with a passion. At age thirteen, she is forced to rely on her skills to earn a living in a foreign country. Throughout the course of the book, she realizes that she is a strong person capable of great heroism and compassion.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

## Gilley, Jeremy

Title: *Peace One Day*

ISBN 0-399-24330-5

Publisher: GP Putnam And Sons

Date: 2005

Genre: Mixed media

This mixed media journal by Jeremy Gilley presents a chronological commentary on Jeremy's travels around the world while trying to get

the attention of UN decision-makers. His goal was to establish one day of cease-fire around the world to celebrate peace; he succeeded and September 21 was named the UN International Day of Peace

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

Gore, Al

Title: *An Inconvenient Truth*

ISBN: 0670062723

Publisher: Dolphin

Date: 2007

Genre: Environmental science

This book shadows the academy award-winning (and Nobel Prize winning) documentary of the same name. This book is ideal as a companion resource, or as an introduction to the environmental issue of climate change. Rich photographs, maps and simple text make this timely message accessible for all.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Haworth-Attard,  
Barbara

Title: *Home Child*

ISBN: 0-00-639312-80

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

Date: 1996

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: CLA Notable Book of the Year

Fourteen-year old Arthur has been sent from England to work as a Home Child in Canada. Sadie, the main character, cannot understand why her father treats him so harshly and why her mother merely ignores him. A strong friendship forms between these two characters and many strange discoveries shock Sadie's world.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio

Haddix, Margaret  
Peterson

Title: *Among the Hidden*

ISBN: 0689824750

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

Date: 2000

Genre: Futuristic

Awards: ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, ALA Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults

Luke is living a secret life as one of the Shadow Children, third children who are forbidden to exist by the Population Police. He cannot leave his house for any reason and cannot have any friends. One day Luke meets a young neighbour and, through her, learns of an underground network of Shadow Children. He is faced with a choice; to join the Shadow Children network and to risk everything, including his life, or to continue with his barren existence.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF, Word (etext)

## Henegan, James

Title: *Torn Away*

ISBN: 1-55143-263-3

Publisher: Orca Book Publishers

Date: 1994

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Awards: Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Mystery

Thirteen-year old Declan has been torn away from his native soil of Ireland after his mother, father, and sister have been killed on the streets of Belfast. He is forced to live in Canada with his uncle's family. He wishes to return to Ireland and seek revenge for his family's murderers, but the lure of his new friends, family, and surroundings cause him even more struggles with his choices in life.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF (etext)

## Herge

Title: *The Adventures of Tin Tin, Volume 1*

ISBN: 978-1-4052-2894-7

Publisher: Ergmont

Date: 2007

Genre: Graphic Novel

Awards:

*The Adventures of Tintin Volume 1* includes "Land of the Soviets" and "Tintin in the Congo". Tintin, a reporter for Le Petit Vingtieme, and his loyal dog, Snowy, are sent to the former Soviet Union and the Congo to report on events. Their investigations lead to adventure as they are constantly having to rescue themselves from dangerous situations. The stories provide a glimpse into the historical attitudes, beliefs, and stereotypes of the 1930s about both the Soviet Union and colonial Africa.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Hinton, S.E.

Title: *The Outsiders*  
ISBN: 0-14-038572-X  
Publisher: Puffin Books  
Date: 1967  
Genre: Realistic Fiction  
Awards: ALA Best Young Adult Books, 1975

This is a story that transcends time and students rate it number one year after year. A teenage boy who belongs to a gang on the poorer end of town struggles with issues related to stereotyping, violence, school, families, and love. Rival gangs collide causing dramatic changes for all of the major characters. An amazing and memorable story, this is highly recommended for all young readers.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs, digital audio, PDF (etext)

Holt, K. Willis

Title: *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*  
ISBN: 0440229049  
Publisher:  
Date: 1998  
Genre: Realistic Fiction  
Awards: National Book Award

Toby Wilson is dealing with the absence of his mother who has recently left when Zachary Beaver, “The World’s Fattest Boy”, comes to Antler, Texas as part of a traveling show. Toby befriends the lonely and unhappy Zachary and helps him to achieve his dream of being baptized. This relationship also helps Toby to learn to accept the things he cannot change.

*Recommended Grade:* Middle Intermediate

Iggulden, Conn

Title: *The Dangerous Book for Boys*  
ISBN: 0007232748N  
Publisher: Harper Collins  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Non-fiction

*The Dangerous Book for Boys* is the companion manual for *The Daring Book for Girls*. Wide ranging topics include Dog Tricks, Building a Treehouse, Juggling, Making Cloth Fireproof, and Sampling Shakespeare. Arranged in eclectic sections, there are many coloured illustrations in the text. Readers can access the text from a variety of entry points, depending their interests.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Kadohata, Cynthia

Title: *Kira-kira*  
ISBN: 0689856407  
Publisher: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Realistic  
Awards: Newbery Medal

When Katie's sister, Lynn, falls extremely ill, Katie must face the realities of living in a world of prejudice and poverty without the benefits of the beauty and glitter that Lynn provides through her wonderful outlook on life. Katie and her family have always relied upon Lynn to express insight and understanding about the world. Now Katie has to continue the belief that there is always something shining...she just has to find it.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Koja, Kathe

Title: *Talk*  
Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre/Fsg Kids  
ISBN 0-374-37382-5  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Realistic

When Kit lands the lead in a school play about homosexuality, he doesn't expect things to be so real. He has been struggling with his own sexuality and his best friend has been supporting him to come out. The dual narration of the plot emphasizes the expectations and assumptions people have about each other as well as the misconceptions people are guided by when they are not open to other possibilities. This book is powerful, emotional and deals with complex and mature subjects.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Konigsburg, E.L.

Title: *Silent to the Bone*  
ISBN: 0689867158  
Publisher: Simon and Schuster  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Contemporary Fiction  
Awards: Teen's Choice Award

Branwell Zamborska is unable to speak. He hasn't spoken a word since Nikki, his baby half sister has gone into a coma and he is accused of being the one who hurt her. Connor, Branwell's best friend, attempts to

uncover the reason for Branwell's silence and what has really transpired on Wednesday, November 25. This book is powerful, emotional and deals with complex and mature subjects.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF (etext)

## Kuipers, Alice

Title: *Life on the Refrigerator Door*

Publisher: HarperCollins Canada, Limited

ISBN: 13: 978-00613-70496

Date: 2007

Genre: Contemporary/Realistic

This novel is written in a unique style – a series of notes detailing the day-to-day life of a mother and daughter. Their main source of communication is leaving notes for each other, some only a few lines, on the refrigerator door. The reader is provided with an intimate perspective with which to engage the characters as the ordinary becomes extraordinary while exploring the value of family.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Liao, Jimmy

Title: *The Sound of Colors*

Publisher: Little Brown and Company

ISBN: 0-316-93992-7

Date: 2006

Genre: Picture book

This story incorporates engaging and original illustrations which could only be imagined. A young blind girl travels through a subway system while attaching colours to the sounds she hears on her journey. The extended metaphor for imagination and personal growth has links to curriculum outcomes for English Language Arts, Art and Health.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Maclean, Sue

Title: *The Nine Lives of Travis Keating*

ISBN: 9781554551040

Publisher: Fitzhenry & Whiteside

Date: 2008

Genre: Realistic Adventure

Awards: 2010-2011 Hackmatack Short List

This engaging and imaginative novel, set in small community on the Northern Peninsula, Newfoundland, follows 12 year-old Travis as he

attempts to save a colony of feral cats, while dealing with the angst of being accepted as the new boy in town. Through the challenges of the adventure, Travis comes to terms with the death of his mother and realizes he has to make peace with the town bully.

Other titles in the series: *The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy*

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Major, Kevin

Title: *Blood Red Ochre*

Publisher: Seal Books

ISBN 0-770-42717-0

Date: 1996

Genre: Realistic Fiction/Historical Fiction/Fantasy

Awards: Canadian Library Association Book of the Year Award, Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

The dual narration of this novel may be perceived by some students as confusing at first; however, the convergence of plots at the end is engaging and a genus for summative activities. The modern plot deals with David and his search for answers about the Beothuks while he works on a school project with Nancy, a mysterious transfer student. The historical plot deals with Daudooset, a Beothuk teenager who is struggling to help his family survive illness, starvation and the impending threats of the Whiteman.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate (links with Grade 8 Social Studies)

*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

Title: *Eh! to Zed*

Publisher: Red Deer Press

ISBN 0-889-95222-1

Date: 2000

Genre: Verse/Picture Book

This is a picture book that uses colourful illustrations to support rhyming words linked to Canadian culture and identity.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Matas, Carol

Title: *After the War*

ISBN: 9780689807220

Publisher: Simon Schuster

Date: 1997

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: ALA Best Book of the Year, Mr. Christine Honour Book

After World War II, Ruth, a 15-year-old survivor of Buchenwald concentration camp, is alone. Recruited by Brichah, an underground organization that helps displaced European Jews emigrate to Palestine, Ruth risks her life to lead a group of children there, using secret routes and forged documents. The journey teaches her to find her own strength to survive and to learn to trust again; the story offers insight into the days and months immediately following the Holocaust.

Other titles in the series: *The Garden*

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio

Title: *Greater Than Angels*

ISBN 0-590-51540-3

Publisher: Scholastic Canada

Date: 1998

Genre: Historical Fiction

The powerful and emotional story of Anna Hirsch and her family who are captured by the Nazis in 1940 and sent to a refugee camp in France. It is an amazing story of the horrors of the Holocaust and the power of love to overcome many of the evils caused by war. It is full of suspense from beginning to end.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

McMurchy-  
Barber, Gina

Title: *Free as a Bird*

ISBN: 9781554884476

Publisher: Dundurn Press

Date: 2010

Genre: Historical Fiction

Awards: Governor General's Literary Award Finalist, Canadian Library Association Finalist, BC Book Prize Finalist, IBBY Books for Disabled Young People, Snow Willow Awards Finalist, VOYA Top Shelf Awards, CCBC Best Books for Kids and Teens

After living with and being loved by her grandma for the first eight years of her life, Ruby Jean, who has Down Syndrome, is institutionalized by

her mother. Ruby Jean suffers through the mental, verbal, and physical abuse that she experiences daily until she encounters forward-thinking workers from the Community Living Society who give her a glimmer of hope. Released from the tortures of the institution in her mid-teens, Ruby learns that she is worthy of love and caring as she adapts to living with a foster family. This story is based on the conditions in the Woodlands School, a residential institution that operated between 1878 and 1996 in British Columbia.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

McNaughton, Janet

Title: *Catch Me Once, Catch Me Twice*  
 Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.  
 ISBN: 978-0773674493  
 Date: 1996  
 Genre: Realistic Fiction/Fantasy

Set during the Second World War, Ev's father is sent overseas by the military. She and her mother are forced to move in with her grandparents in St. John's because Ev's mother is pregnant. In St. John's, Ev meets Peter with whom she goes to school. They spend time exploring the mysteries of the fairy world on Signal Hill and listening to stories told by Peter's grandmother. The main crisis occurs when Ev's father goes missing-in-action.

Other titles in the series: *Make or Break Spring*

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

Title: *The Secret Under My Skin*  
 Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.  
 ISBN 0-00648522-7  
 Date: 2001  
 Genre: Science Fiction  
 Awards: Ruth Schwartz Award (2001), Mr. Christie Award, Gold Seal, Ann Connor Brimer Award (2001), Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award

Set in 24<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland and Labrador, Blay Raintee is searching for answers about her past while trying to survive the technocaust. The book can be seen as an eerie forecast of the future if the planet continues to be abused and neglected. A strong theme of environmental and social action pervades the entire story.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

## Meyer, Stephanie

Title: *Twilight*  
ISBN: 0316015849  
Publisher: Little Brown  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Fantasy, Romance, Horror

Bella has just moved to the small town of Forks to live with her father and is fascinated by one of her fellow students, Edward. He is part of a family of five beautiful teenagers who do not mix with the other students at the school. Eventually, Bella and Edward become a couple, much against Edward's better judgement because Bella is in danger every minute they are together. Edward has a challenging time when he is with Bella because he is a vampire. Although he, along with his family, have decided to only live on animals, he is still at risk of losing control. The plot continues with conflicts between a rival set of vampires and werewolves. This is the first of a series; *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* PDF , Word (etext)

## Mikaelsen, Ben

Title: *Petey*  
ISBN: 0786813369  
Publisher: Hyperion  
Date: 2000  
Genre: Realistic/Historical

Trevor Ladd comes to the rescue of Petey, a disabled old man when school bullies are throwing snowballs at him. He is new in town and befriends Petey. Petey was born with cerebral palsy and finds it difficult to communicate. Trevor attempts to help Petey to find a long lost friend. It is by assisting Petey that Trevor learns a lot about himself. Based on a true story, this is a positive recounting about the power of the individual to make a difference in the lives of others.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Oppel, Kenneth

Title: *Half Brother*  
ISBN: 9781554686117  
Publisher: HarperCollins  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Contemporary Fiction  
Awards: Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book Award,  
Canadian Library Association Book of the Year for Children, Ruth and  
Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award, ALA Best Book for Young Adults,  
CBC Radio Young Canada Reads winner

Ben Tomlin is uprooted from his home in Toronto and moves to Victoria, B.C. where his father, a behavioural scientist begins an experiment with a chimpanzee named Zan. Can Zan learn to live as a human and communicate with them? A special bond develops as Ben becomes a “brother” to Zan and when his father loses funding for the experiment, Ben and his mother are forced to make a decision to take radical actions to save Zan.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Title: *Silverwing*

ISBN: 0006481795

Publisher: HarperCollins

Date: 1998

Genre: Fantasy

Awards: Mr. Christie’s Book Award, CLA Book of the Year for Children Award

Shade, a young and small bat, is blown off course when migrating south for the winter. He has to depend upon his own resourcefulness to return to his family. This animal fantasy has broad appeal to both boys and girls.

Other titles in the series: *Sunwing*, *Firewing*

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

Pfzeter, Mark and  
Jack Galvin

Title: *My Everest Story*

ISBN:0-525-46089-6

Publisher: Penguin

Date: 1998

Genre: Contemporary Non-Fiction, Adventure

Mark Pfetzer begins mountain climbing at age thirteen. But his dreams for the future are big. By the time he is fifteen years old he is headed to Mt. Everest to attempt what most people told him was impossible. In 1995, he may be the youngest person to summit Mt. Everest ... if he succeeds. Mark’s journey becomes not only a test of his physical endurance and his skills as a mountain climber, but also a test of his emotional endurance and commitment.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Park, Linda Sue

Title: *A Single Shard*  
ISBN: 0440418518  
Publisher: Calerion Books  
Date: 2003  
Genre: Historical Fiction  
Awards: Newberry Medal

Set in 12<sup>th</sup> century Korea, the homeless, Tree-ear is taken in by a kind and ethical disabled master in a village of potters. When Tree-ear breaks a piece of pottery created by Min, the best potter in the village, Tree-ear is forced to work off his debt. The protagonist confronts a dilemma after the Emperor commissions pottery from Min who has developed a new inlay design. While taking his master's pottery to the Emperor, Tree-ear breaks it – and is left with only a single shard to demonstrate what this new technique can offer. The novel has a surprising ability to connect us to a time and place far from our own.

*Recommended:* Lower Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* commercial CDs

Polack, Monique

Title: *The Middle of Everywhere*  
ISBN: 9781554690909  
Publisher: Orca Books  
Date: 2009  
Genre: Contemporary Realism  
Awards: Quebec Writers' Federation Prize nominee

Noah Thorpe is sent to live with his father in George River, an Inuit community in northern Quebec. Noah's views and beliefs are challenged by the dramatic changes in school, family life and the environment. To the Inuit he is a qallunaaq – a stranger from the south – who knows nothing about the trials, devastation, and culture of the Inuit. It is not until Noah is on a winter camping trip that he realizes that he will have to learn to adapt if he wants to make it home. This book deals with complex and mature subjects.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

Porter, Pamela

Title: *The Crazy Man*  
ISBN: 0888996950  
Publisher: Groundwood Books  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Historical Fiction, Contemporary Fiction, Verse  
Awards: 2005 Governor General's Literary Award, 2006 TD Book Award, 2006 Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction

Set in 1965 on a Saskatchewan farm, we learn how tragedy has struck the Emaline's family. Told in free verse, the reader comes to explore the values of loyalty and truth. Many prejudices evident in that era come forward. Though some hard realities are discussed, the story is quite uplifting.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF , Word (etext)

## Rennison, Louise

Title: *Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging*

ISBN: 0060521848

Publisher: HarperTeen

Date: 2003

Genre: Contemporary, comedy

This mature fast-paced, humor-packed novel in diary form will have students lining up to read it when they hear the out-loud laughter coming from their classmates. Georgia is Every Girl – to the extreme. Convinced that hers is the dullest life around, this teenager self-obsesses about her looks and boys while her parents are a little strange, and her younger sister embarrasses her to no end. Although completely inexperienced with boys – she is determined to change that, if she can only figure out what to do.

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Rowling, J.K.

Title: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

ISBN: 043935806

Publisher: Scholastic

Date: 2003

Genre: Fantasy

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* begins the series that introduces the reader to Hogwarts, a school of wizardry and secrets. Harry is a famous young wizard who takes on the fearsome Dark Lord Voldemort, the murderer of Harry's parents. He must contend with the world of the Muggles (the world of ordinary people) in between terms at Hogwarts where Harry and his friends, Ron and Hermione, regularly battle the forces of evil. Harry progresses through his formal schooling to become a fully accredited wizard and as he attempts to vanquish his arch enemy, Voldemort.

Other titles in the series: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Said, S.F.

Title: *Varjak Paw*  
 ISBN: 0440420768  
 Publisher: Random House Children's Books  
 Date: 2003  
 Genre: Fantasy, Adventure

Varjak Paw is a cat that belongs to a special breed, the Mesopotamia Blue. When the owner of the house dies, Varjak Paw ventures to the dangerous world outside of his sheltered life. While there, he learns a martial art that has been passed down through the generations.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

Segovia, Patty and  
 Rebecca Heller

Title: *Skater Girl*  
 ISBN: 978-1-56975-542-6  
 Publisher: Ulysses Press  
 Date: 2007  
 Genre: Nonfiction, Informational

This girl's guide to skateboarding is an empowering need-to-know handbook for any female teenager interested in skateboarding. It offers extensive information about boarding culture, including what it takes to become a pro. The book covers all aspects of skateboarding: how to get your start, tricks that range in difficulty, and a history of women's skateboarding.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

Shakespeare,  
 William

Title: *A Midsummer Night's Dream – The Graphic Novel*  
 ISBN: 9780195438017 (Original version)  
 Publisher: Oxford  
 Date: 2011  
 Genre: Graphic Novel, Drama

This classic story of rumours and deception retold in graphic style creates new interest in Shakespeare's dramatic form.

Other titles in the series: Modern version (ISBN 9780195438024), Quick text version (ISBN 9780195438031)

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

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Title: *Romeo and Juliet – The Graphic Novel*  
ISBN: 9780195437980 (Original version)  
Publisher: Oxford  
Date: 2010  
Genre: Graphic Novel, Drama

This classic story of forbidden love retold in graphic style creates new interest in Shakespeare’s dramatic form.

Other titles in the series: Modern version (ISBN 9780195438000), Quick text version (ISBN 9780195437997)

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate

## Short, Robin

Title: *Rock Stars*  
ISBN: 1897174128  
Publisher: Creative Book Publishers  
Date: 2006  
Genre: Informational

In 2006, Canada was represented by Brad Gushue’s curling team at the XX Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. Robin Short, sports editor for The Telgram, details the team’s journey to the Olympics and their challenges along the way.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Smith, David J.

Title: *If the World Were a Village*  
ISBN 1-55074-779-7  
Publisher: Kids Can Press, Ltd.  
Date: 2002  
Genre: Informational  
Awards: International Reading Association Children’s Book Award (2003)

This informative text presents global issues in a “village” setting – 100 people instead of 6 billion. The realistic and manageable population size really challenges students to consider inequities in the world and to pose questions and solutions. Includes a companion website at <http://www.mapping.com/village.html>.

*Recommended Grade:* Lower Intermediate

## Stratton, Allan

Title: *Chanda's Secrets*  
ISBN: 1550378341  
Publisher: Annick Press  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Realistic Fiction

Chanda, aged 16, lives in the impoverished world of sub-Saharan Africa; a world filled with heartache. Her father died and there has been a series of stepfathers; all of whom are abusive and/or neglectful. Although AIDS is common, it is not a topic that is socially acceptable for discussion. Her third stepfather dies from AIDS and her mother is in the process of dying from AIDS. Despite the desperation and the stigma associated with the illness, Chanda's courage and intelligence help her to face the death of her mother. This is a dark book with very moving social commentary on the appalling treatment of individuals living with AIDS.

Other titles in the series: *Chanda's Wars*

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* Kurzweil, PDF, Word (etext)

## Tan, Shaun

Title: *Lost and Found*  
ISBN: 9780545229241  
Publisher: Arthur A. Levine  
Date: 2011  
Genre: Radical Literature, Picture Book

This collection of three illustrated short stories in picture book format that deal with emotional issues: depression, the sense of belonging and cultural assimilation. Each story is separate and presents unique illustration styles and voices; all three share a common thread of loss and hope.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Thompson, Kate

Title: *The New Policeman*  
ISBN: 9780061174278  
Publisher: The Bodley Head  
Date: 2005  
Genre: Fantasy, Adventure  
Awards: Whitbread Children's Book Award

J.J. Liddy is part of a family of musicians. Time seems to be slipping away faster and faster in the community of Kinvara to the point where there is not enough time to enjoy life's simple pleasures. As a result, J. J.'s

mother asks him to find more time as a birthday gift. This journey takes the reader to a magical land called Tír na n’Óg, the land of eternal youth where J.J. must solve the riddle of evaporating time.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

Van Draanen,  
Wendelin

Title: *Flipped*  
ISBN: 0-375-81174-5  
Publisher: Alfred A. Knoff  
Date: 2001  
Genre: Realistic

In alternating chapters, two teenagers describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. Juli Baker loves her sycamore tree and the eggs she collects daily. She also loves Bryce Loski. However, Bryce definitely does not reciprocate Juli’s feelings; he is convinced that she is weird and strange. Things change though once the two have a confrontation. Juli’s passionate beliefs, once the cause of Bryce’s dislike, now begin to endear her to him. Bryce’s lack of support of Juli’s crusades causes negative feelings in Juli towards Bryce, and she begins to think that he is not as interesting as she had originally thought him to be. Will they be able to resolve their differences?

*Recommended Grade:* Upper Intermediate  
*Alternate Formats available:* digital audio, PDF (etext)

Weeks, Sarah

Title: *So B. It*  
ISBN: 0064410471  
Publisher: Harper Trophy  
Date: 2004  
Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction  
Awards: Parents’ Choice Gold Award

Heidi is the daughter of a mentally disabled mother. She lives with her mom and a neighbour, Bernadette. She doesn’t know when her birthday is or even who is her father. Everything about her past is a mystery. Heidi’s mom has a limited vocabulary. A favourite word is “soof”. One day, curiosity gets the better of Heidi and she embarks on a journey to discover her past. What she discovers will not only change the way she lives, but forever changes how she views life.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

## Whelan, Gloria

Title: *Homeless Bird*

ISBN: 0439296919

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers

Date: 2000

Genre: Contemporary, Realistic Fiction

Awards: National Book Award, ALA Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults, ALA Notable Children's Book, ALA Best Book for Young Adults, ALA Booklist Editors' Choice

Koly is a thirteen-year-old girl from a rural village in India. Her parents arrange a marriage to a young man from another village. The family doesn't realize Koly is to marry a dying boy and was basically sold for her dowry. According to custom, a widow can never return home without bringing shame to her family. As a result, Koly is destined to a life of poverty. Can she escape? This novel was inspired by a newspaper article about the real thirteen-year-old widows in India today.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

*Alternate Formats available:* PDF (etext)

## Wilson, Janet

Title: *Imagine That!*

ISBN: 0773732217

Publisher: Fitzhenry and Whiteside

Date: 2000

Genre: Picture Books

On her hundredth birthday, Auntie Violet reminisces with her great grandniece, Elizabeth, about all of the changes that have taken place over her lifetime in the twentieth century. She shares brief anecdotes about her own girlhood. The pages contain beautiful illustrations of historical personages and reflect the text. Colour coded sidebars containing factual information line both sides of the book. Wide ranging topics include inventions, fashion, history, and medicine to entertainment, toys, food, and transportation. This is a fabulous resource to spark research and class discussions.

*Recommended Grade:* Intermediate

# Resources

## Professional Resources

- Gelman, Judy and Viki Levy Krupp (2007) *The Kids' Book Club Book*
- Henderson, Darwin L. & May, Jill P. (2005) *Exploring Culturally Diverse Literature for Children and Adolescents. Learning to Listen in New Ways*
- Miller, Deborah (2010) *The Book Whisperer*
- Opitz, Michael F. and Michael P. Ford with Matthew D. Zbaracki (2006) *Books and Beyond: New Ways to Reach Readers*
- Tomlinson, Carl M. & Carol Lynch-Brown (2007) *Essentials of Young Adult Literature*

## Internet Sites for Young Adult Texts

**American Library Association: Children's Notable Books**  
<http://ala8.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/childrensnotable/Default1888.htm>

This site identifies the best in children's books, recordings, videos and computer software on a yearly basis.

**Children's Literature Web Guide**  
<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/>

It contains links to awards, authors on the web, electronic journals, discussion groups and upcoming conferences pertaining to children's literature.

**CM: Canadian Review of Materials**  
<http://www.umanitoba.ca/cm/index.html>

CM magazine contains illustrated reviews with excerpts of current books and media, and a searchable database of back issues and reviews. It also contains news, author profiles and other features of interest to teachers, librarians, parents and kids. It is maintained by the Manitoba Library Association.

**Governor General's Literary Awards**  
<http://www.canadacouncil.ca/prizes/ggla/>

**Newbery Medal Home Page**

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html>

The official page of the John Newbery Award as maintained by the Association for Library Service to Children. It includes information about the award, descriptions of the award winners, and a printable list of all the previous winners.

**Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries**

<http://www.nlpubliclibraries.ca/>

The provincial public libraries (NLPL) offer a wide range of reading, viewing and listening materials. Many titles are available through local and interlibrary loans; the eLibrary catalogue offers audio books (Overdrive© software is free to download). NLPL also includes electronic databases for TumbleBooks and TumbleReaders which list a variety of interactive and virtual books, including text-to-voice.

**Reading Online**

<http://www.readingonline.org/>

An electronic peer-reviewed journal from the International Reading Association which is intended to serve literacy educators interested in using an electronic medium for explorations of research, instruction, and communication. It includes articles, reviews and opportunities for computer users to communicate with other users.

**Writer's Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador**

<http://www.writersalliance.nf.ca>

**American Library Association: Best Books for Young Adults**

<http://www.lita.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bbyahome.cfm>

The Best Books for Young Adults committee selects and annotates a list of significant adult and young adult books annually, as well as chooses a list of top ten titles from the full list. It is a general list of fiction and nonfiction titles selected for their proven or potential appeal to the personal reading tastes of the young adult.

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