

SMS POPULAR FICTION

SPRING / SUMMER 2010

NEWBERY WINNER '10

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

NUTMEG WINNERS '09-10

Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer - Teen

Double Identity by

Margaret Peterson Haddix - Intermediate

Appelt, Kathi **The Underneath**

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack and two kittens born underneath the house endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free. IL: LG-MG [NATIONAL BOOK AWARD 2008]

Avi **The Good Dog**

McKinley, a malamute, is torn between the domestic world of his human family and the wild world of Lupin, a wolf that is trying to recruit dogs to replenish the dwindling wolf pack. IL: LG-MG

Bellaire, John **Curse of the Blue Figurine**

Johnny Dixon is plunged into a terrifying mystery-adventure when he takes a blue figurine and a scroll from a church. IL: MG

Clements, Andrew **Lunch Money**

Twelve-year-old Greg, who has always been good at moneymaking projects, is surprised to find he is teaming up with his lifelong rival, Maura, to create a series of comic books to sell at school.

IL: LG-MG

Christopher, Matt **Soccer Halfback**

A young boy is pressured by his family to abandon his promising soccer career for football. IL:LG

Curtis, Christopher Paul **Elijah of Buxton**

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom. IL: MG [CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD 2008]

DiCamillo, Kate **Because of Winn-Dixie**

Many good things come to India Opal Buloni because of an ugly dog called Winn-Dixie. IL: MG

DuPrau, Jeanne **City of Ember**

In the city of Ember, 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. IL: MG [NUTMEG WINNER 2006]

Freeman, Martha **The Year My Parents Ruined My Life**

Twelve-year-old Kate has her entire world turned upside-down when she has to move from California to snowy Pennsylvania, where she tries to adjust to a new climate, a new school, and new friends. IL:MG

Gutman, Dan **Babe and Me**

Joe and his father travel through time to meet Babe Ruth and see the famous 1932 World Series. [NUTMEG AWARD 2004] IL: MG

Hannigan, Kate **Ida B.**

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B. spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school. IL: MG

Henry, Marguerite **King of the Wind**

Follows the adventures of the Arabian stallion brought to England to become one of the founding sires of the Thoroughbred breed and the mute Arab stable boy who tended him with loyalty and devotion all his life. IL: MG [NEWBERY 1949]

Hesse, Karen **Music of Dolphins**

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.

IL: MG-UG

Hinton, S. E. **That Was Then This is Now**

Sixteen-year-olds Mark and Byron have been like brothers, but now, as their involvement with girls, gangs, and drugs increases, their relationship seems to disintegrate. IL: MG

Holt, Kimberly Willis **My Louisiana Sky**

Growing up in Saitter, Louisiana, in the 1950's, twelve-year-old Tiger Ann struggles with her feelings about her stern but loving grandmother, her mentally slow parents, and her friend, Jesse. IL:MG

Hughes, Dean **Soldier Boys**

Two boys, one German and one American, are eager to join their respective armies during World War II, and their paths cross at the Battle of the Bulge. IL: MG-UG

Jacques, Brian **Redwall**

When the peaceful life of the ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find a legendary sword that will help destroy the enemy. First book in a popular series. IL:MG-UG

Juster, Norman **Phantom Tollbooth**

A journey through a land where Milo learns the importance of words and numbers provides a cure for his boredom. IL: LG-MG

Levine, Gail Carson **Ella Enchanted**

This fantasy is a delightful retelling of the Cinderella story. IL: MG

Lewis, C. S. **The Magician's Nephew**

This first book in the Chronicles of Narnia series. Enchanted creatures live and fierce battles are fought between good and evil, explains how Aslan created Narnia and gave the gift of speech to its animals. IL: MG

Lowry, Lois **Number the Stars**

In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter a Jewish friend from the Nazis. IL: MG

Lupica, Mike **Summerball**

This novel continues the story of Danny Walker, the basketball-obsessed hero of Travel Team. In the interval between the two books, the 13-year-old and his friends went on to win the travel-team championship. Now that they are heading off to summer basketball camp, Danny is feeling the pressure of being number one. IL: MG

Montgomery, Lucy Maude **Anne of Green Gables**

A spunky young orphan girl, Anne Shirley, changes the lives of everyone around her when she is adopted by the Cuthberts of Prince Edward Island. IL: MG

Mortenson, Greg; David O. Relin **Three Cups of Tea Adapted for young readers by Sarah Thomson**

Adapts for young readers Greg Mortenson's book in which he recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children. IL: MG-UG [NON-FICTION]

Myers, Walter Dean

Hoops

Lonnie Jackson is a talented basketball player who hopes to win a citywide tournament of champions. A book about the difficult choices high school players must make. IL: UG

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

Shiloh

When he finds a lost beagle in the hills behind his West Virginia home, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean spirited man known to shoot deer out of season and to mistreat his dogs. IL: MG

Nelson, Kadir **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**

Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved. IL: LG-MG [CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD 2009] NON-FICTION

Paterson, Katherine

Bridge to Terabithia

Jesse's life becomes more exciting when he finds a new friend, Leslie. But when Leslie drowns trying to reach their special hideaway, Terabithia, Jesse struggles to accept the loss of his friend. IL:MG

Paulsen, Gary

Brian's Winter

In the first book called Hatchet, thirteen-year-old Brian learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness armed with only a hatchet. Brian's Winter begins where Hatchet might have ended – Brian is not rescued, but must rely on his survival skills. IL: MG

Sachar, Louis

Small Steps

Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along. IL: LG-UG

Selznick, Brian **The Invention of Hugo Cabret : a Novel in Words and Pictures**

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. IL: LG-MG [CALDECOTT MEDAL 2008]

Sperry, Armstrong **Call it Courage**

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe. IL: MG [NEWBERRY 1941]

Tan, Shaun **The Arrival**

An astonishing wordless graphic novel blends historical imagery with science-fiction elements to depict--brilliantly--the journey of an immigrant man from his terror-beset land of origin to a new, more peaceful home. IL: MG-UG

Tolkien, J. R. R. **The Hobbit**

Bilbo Baggins, a hobbit in a land inhabited by dwarves, elves, goblins, and dragons, is persuaded to join a band of dwarves to recover a stolen treasure. IL: UG

Verne, Jules **Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea**

In search of an unknown sea monster in 1867, three men go overboard and find refuge on a futuristic submarine. Other titles by Verne: A Journey to the Center of the Earth, Around the World in Eighty Days. IL: MG-UG

Whelan, Gloria **Listening For Lions**

Left an orphan after the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, thirteen-year-old Rachel is tricked into assuming a deceased neighbor's identity to travel to England, where her only dream is to return to Africa and rebuild her parents' mission hospital. IL: MG

VISIT:

**Suffield Middle School Media Center Homepage
for more links to reading suggestions :**

<http://www.middlemedia.org/readers.html>

KEY:

LG = LOWER GRADES (K-5)

MG = MIDDLE GRADES (4-9)

UG= UPPER GRADES (8-12)

IL = INTEREST LEVEL