

**THE DEATH-DEFYING PEPPER ROUX** by McCaughrean (YA McCaughrean) Grades 6-9  
Having been raised believing he will die before he reaches the age of fourteen, Pepper Roux runs away on his fourteenth birthday in an attempt to elude his fate, assumes another identity, and continues to try to outrun death, no matter the consequences.

**BLOODY JACK ADVENTURES** series by Meyer (YA Meyer) Grades 6 & up  
Reduced to begging and thievery in the streets of London, a thirteen-year-old orphan disguises herself as a boy and connives her way onto a British warship set for high sea adventure in search of pirates.

**THE GUILD OF SPECIALISTS** series by Mowll (YA Mowll) Grades 5 & up  
The posthumous papers of Rebecca MacKenzie document her adventures, along with her brother Doug, in 1920s China as the teenaged siblings are sent to live aboard their uncle's ship where they become involved in the dangerous activities of a mysterious secret society called the Honourable Guild of Specialists.

**MATT CRUSE** series by Opperl (YA Opperl) Grades 7-11  
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.

**MAXIMUM RIDE** series by Patterson (YA Patterson) Grades 7 & up  
After the mutant Erasers abduct the youngest member of their group, the "birdkids," who are the result of genetic experimentation, take off in pursuit and find themselves struggling to understand their own origins and purpose.

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**PIRATES!** by Rees (YA Rees) Grades 7 & up  
In 1722, after arriving with her brother at the family's Jamaican plantation where she is to be married off, sixteen-year-old Nancy Kington escapes with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe, and together they become pirates traveling the world in search of treasure.

**ATTOLIA** series by Turner (YA Turner) Grades 7 & up  
Eugenides, still known as a Thief of Eddis, faces palace intrigue and assassins as he strives to prove himself both to the people of Attolia and to his new bride, their queen. (THE THIEF, THE QUEEN OF ATTOLIA, THE KING OF ATTOLIA, A CONSPIRACY OF KINGS)

**MORIBITO** series by Uehashi (YA Uehashi) Grades 5 & up  
The wandering warrior Balsa is hired to protect Prince Chagum from both a mysterious monster and the prince's father, the Mikado.

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# Action & Adventure



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**THE GAME OF SUNKEN PLACES** by Anderson  
(YA Anderson) Grades 5-9  
Brian and Gregory visit the isolated, gas-lit mansion of Gregory's peculiar uncle Max and soon they are facing ax-wielding trolls, fleeing bloodthirsty ogres.

**BLADE: PLAYING DEAD** by Bowler  
(YA Bowler) Grades 9 & up  
After Blade suffers a beating by a local gang, an offer of help from a Good Samaritan goes awry and he finds himself on the run from a group of mysterious armed men.

**YOUNG SAMURAI** series by Bradford  
(YA Bradford) Grades 6-9  
Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan, his beloved father and the crew lie slaughtered by ninja pirates.

**ABSOLUTE PRESSURE** by Brouwer  
(YA Brouwer) Grades 6 & up  
Deep sea diving, treasure hunting, attempted murder and cover-up. Don't hold your breath.

**HEIR TRILOGY** by Chima  
(YA Chima) Grades 5-9  
Through the machinations of fate and a wizard's whim, teenager Jack Swift is caught up in a cruel battle between warring factions of magic-users called the Weir.

**ARTEMIS FOWL** series by Colfer  
(YA Colfer) Grades 4-9  
When a twelve-year-old evil genius tries to restore his family fortune by capturing a fairy and demanding a ransom in gold, the fairies fight back with magic, technology, and a particularly nasty troll.

**AIRMAN** by Colfer  
(YA Colfer) Grades 7 & up  
In the late nineteenth century, when Conor Broekhart discovers a conspiracy to overthrow the king, he is branded a traitor, imprisoned, and forced to mine for diamonds under brutal conditions while he plans a daring escape from Little Saltee prison by way of a flying machine that he must design, build, and, hardest of all, trust to carry him to safety.

**ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG SAILOR** series by Dowswell  
(YA Dowswell) Grades 5-9  
Thirteen-year-old Sam endures harsh conditions, battles, and a shipwreck after being pressed into service aboard the HMS Miranda during the Napoleonic Wars.

**NOBODY'S PRINCESS** by Friesner  
(YA Friesner) Grades 6-9  
Determined to fend for herself in a world where only men have real freedom, headstrong Helen, who will be called queen of Sparta and Helen of Troy one day, learns to fight, hunt, and ride horses while disguised as a boy, and goes on an adventure throughout the Mediterranean world.

**THE DEVIL'S BREATH** by Gilman  
(YA Gilman) Grades 6-9  
When fifteen-year-old Max Gordon's environmentalist-adventurer father goes missing while working in Namibia and Max becomes the target of a would-be assassin at his school in England, he decides he must follow his father to Africa and find him before they both are killed.

**CAT ROYAL ADVENTURES** series by Golding  
(YA Golding) Grades 6-8  
Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

**TUNNELS** series by Gordon  
(YA Gordon) Grades 5-9  
When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.

**YOUNG BOND** series by Higson  
(YA Higson) Grades 6-9  
Prequel to the adventures of James Bond, 007, introduces the young James when he is just starting boarding school in England and is about to become involved in his first adventure.

**ALEX RIDER** series by Horowitz  
(YA Horowitz) Grades 5-9  
After the death of the uncle who had been his guardian, fourteen-year-old Alex Rider is coerced to continue his uncle's dangerous work for Britain's intelligence agency, MI6.

**EPIC** by Kostick  
(YA Kostick) Grades 8 & up  
On New Earth, a world based on a video role-playing game, fourteen-year-old Erik persuades his friends to aid him in some unusual gambits in order to save Erik's father from exile and safeguard the futures of each of their families.

**SKULDUGGERY PLEASANT** series by Landy  
(YA Landy) Grades 5-8  
When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

**PIRATICA** series by Lee  
(YA Lee) Grades 6-9  
Art escapes the Angels Academy for Young Maidens to recapture the life of her pirate queen mother.

**FEARLESS** by Lott  
(YA Lott) Grades 5-8  
In the future, girls labeled "juvies" or "mindcrips" are taken from their families and sent to the prison-like City Community Faith School, but Little Fearless decides to break out, and embarks on a dangerous mission to try to free the girls from their miserable captivity.