**THE BOMB** by Taylor (YA Taylor)
Grades 6-10
It is 1946, a year after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and World War II is over. But the U.S. government has decided that further tests of atomic bombs must be conducted. When Bikini Atoll is chosen for the testing site, the inhabitants of the tiny island are told they must relocate for just two years. But Sorry Rinamu believes the Americans are lying and that it will *never* be safe to return.

**ALL HALLOW’S EVE: 13 STORIES** by Vande Velde (YA Vande Velde)
Grades 6 & up
A collection of 13 stories that will thrill and chill. Each tale takes place on Halloween, and some stories are variations on familiar tales.

**GANGSTA RAP** by Zephaniah (YA Zephaniah)
Grades 9 & up
Ray has trouble at home and trouble at school. It's the last straw for everyone when Ray and his friends Prem and Tyrone are permanently suspended. But they know what they want, more than most, perhaps. Their headmaster decides to give them a second chance, a chance to live their dream of forming a rap group.

**Pick-Up Game: A Full Day of Full Court** edited by Aronson & Smith (YA Aronson) Grades 8 & up
Each story is told from the point of view of a group of teens and adults playing basketball on a New York City court called the Cage. Everyone from player to spectator has something worthwhile to say. Slowly, a story line emerges, recounting the events of one particular day from different viewpoints.

**Swim the Fly** series by Calame (YA Calame) Grades 8-10
Matt, Cooper and Sean, swim teammates since third grade, hold the local record for the "largest collection of green fifth-place ribbons." In addition to hanging out poolside, each summer they choose a project. This year, Coop, 15, announces their objective will be to see a girl naked. Since none even has a girlfriend, deviant hijinks ensue. *(Swim the Fly, Beat the Band)*

**Heir Chronicles** by Chima (YA Chima)
Grades 6 & up
Jack forgets his medicine one morning and by afternoon is filled with such strength he sends his rival, Garrett Lobeck, sailing into the net at soccer tryouts - without even touching him. Jack soon discovers he is no ordinary teen and his medicine is not what he thought it was. Since the secret insertion of a warrior stone in his chest at infancy, Jack has been dosed with a suppressant meant to hold his powers as a Warrior Heir in check until his wizard sponsor can retrieve him and prepare him to fight in a death tournament for supremacy. (The Warrior Heir, The Wizard Heir, The Dragon Heir)

SEVEN REALMS series by Chima (YA Chima)
Grades 7 & up
Princess Raisa comes from royalty and Han lives in poverty, but both are linked by the wizardry of The Demon King. They meet when Han is avoiding the sometimes brutal authorities who wrongly accuse him of violent crimes and Raisa has donned peasant garb to learn about discontent in her kingdom. (The Demon King, The Exiled Queen, The Gray Wolf Throne)

SKY INSIDE series by Dunkle (YA Dunkle)
Grades 7 & up
Every year a new generation of genetically-engineered children is shipped out to meet their parents. It’s business as usual under the protective dome of suburb HM1. And it’s all about to come crashing down. Because a stranger has come to take away all the little children, including Martin’s sister, Cassie, and no one wants to talk about where she has gone. The way Martin sees it, he has a choice. He can remain in the dubious safety of HM1, with danger that no one wants to talk about lurking just beneath the surface, or he can actually break out of the suburb, into the mysterious land outside, rumored to be nothing but blowing sand for miles upon miles. (The Sky Inside, The Walls Have Eyes)
**Spartan Quest** series by Ford (YA Ford)
Grades 6-10
Lysander, a young Helot slave who is trying to do twice the work demanded of him so his ailing mother can stay out of the fields, is attacked on his way home one night. He is saved by a distinguished old Spartan who is fascinated by the pendant that has been pulled from its hiding place under Lysander's clothing. (**The Fire of Ares, The Birth of a Warrior, Legacy of Blood**)

**Danger Zone** series by Gilman (YA Gilman)
Grades 6-9
Tom Gordon is missing and presumed dead. Now his 15-year-old son, Max, must leave England and go to the wilds of Namibia to search for him. (**Devil’s Breath, Ice Claw, Blood Sun**)

**The Enemy** series by Higson (YA Higson)
Grades 7 & up
Everyone over 16 is dead or diseased, and youngsters are in constant danger of being eaten by boil-infested grown-ups who roam the streets like zombies looking for children to kill. Led by teens Arran and Maxie and armed with makeshift weapons, a group of kids sets out from the uncertain safety of an
abandoned supermarket to travel to Buckingham Palace, where a young messenger promises that food, medicine, and a haven are available. *(The Enemy, the Dead)*

*Legend* by Lu (YA Lu)
Grades 8 & up
What was once the western United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbors. Born into an elite family in one of the Republic's wealthiest districts, June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, Day is the country's most wanted criminal. But his motives may not be as malicious as they seem. From very different worlds, June and Day have no reason to cross paths - until the day June's brother, Metias, is murdered and Day becomes the prime suspect. Caught in the ultimate game of cat and mouse, Day is in a race for his family's survival, while June seeks to avenge Metias's death.

*The Last Book in the Universe*, by Philbrick (YA Philbrick)
Grades 5-9
Spaz, a boy who lives on the fringes of his surreal future world, partly because epilepsy prevents him from using the mind probes most people use to blot out reality, sets out on a classic quest to save his ill foster sister. To do so, he must cross forbidden territory and face frightening gangs and their leaders. He picks up companions as he travels: Ryter, a philosophic old man whose treasure is the book he is writing despite knowing that books and reading are of the past; Littleface, a young almost speechless child; and Linnea, a "prove" (genetically improved person).
**SALT TRILOGY** by Gee (YA Gee)
Grades 7 & up
When Company soldiers press-gang the poor, they capture Hari’s father and assign him to the salt mines of Deep Salt. Hari follows, determined to save him even though no one ever returns from Deep Salt. At the same time, Pearl, from a prestigious Company family, flees her arranged marriage along with her mystical Dweller maid, Tealeaf. Hari and Pearl can both communicate telepathically, and they end up traveling together. Aided by Tealeaf and other Dwellers, Pearl and Hari discover the secret mined in Deep Salt. (**SALT, GOOL, THE LIMPING MAN**)

**ESCAPE FROM THE FURNACE** by Smith (YA Smith)
Grades 7-10
Furnace Penitentiary: the world’s most secure prison for young offenders, buried a mile beneath the earth’s surface. Convicted of a murder he didn’t commit, sentenced to life without parole, Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death behind bars. (**LOCKDOWN, SOLITARY, DEATH SENTENCE**)

**ROTTERS** by Kraus (YA Kraus)
Grades 9 & up
After his mother is killed in a bus accident, teenager Joey moves from Chicago to a small Iowa town, where he will live with Harnett, the father he has never met. After no one greets him at the train station, Joey finds his way to his father's home: a remote shack saturated in a foul, mysterious odor. The source of that odor becomes clear after Joey learns that his father, known as the Garbage Man around town, is, in fact, a grave robber who relies on deeply rooted traditions and a network that stretches across the country.

**GHETTO COWBOY** by Neri (YA Neri)
Grades 5-8
When 12-year-old Cole acts out one time too many, his beleaguered mother drives him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with the father he's never known. To Cole's astonishment, his father, Harper, turns out to be a kind of urban cowboy, living in the ghetto, where he and a group of friends keep and care for old racehorses they've saved from the slaughterhouse.

**CLEOPTARA'S MOON** by Shecter (YA Shecter)
Grades 9 & up
As a child, Selene wants nothing more than to follow in her mother's footsteps and become a powerful queen, but she instead becomes a hostage of war when Roman ruler Octavianus invades Egypt, defeating Marc Antony and ensuring his claim to the Roman Empire. After her parents' deaths by suicide, Selene is forced to live with her two brothers in Octavianus' hostile household in Rome, where she schemes futilely to reclaim the Egyptian throne. Based on historical records, this is an often-tragic tale of a determined young woman who must adapt to the loss of everything she's known in order to recognize the new possibilities before her.
EVERYBODY SEES THE ANTS by King (YA King)
Grades 9 & up
Lucky Linderman, 15, has been the target of bullying by a classmate, Nader, and after a particularly brutal attack by him, Lucky leaves Pennsylvania for Arizona with his mother, who is fed up with her marriage. Staying with his uncle and pill-popping aunt is anything but a peaceful vacation, but when Lucky meets 17-year-old Ginny, a reluctant model, her strong will and courage make Lucky realize that it's time to stand up for himself.

EVERY YOU, EVERY ME by Levithan (YA Levithan)
Grades 8 & up
Writing in a first-person journal format, complete with crossed out words and sentences, 16-year-old Evan invites readers into his confused existence as he mourns the loss of the girl he considered his best friend. Whatever happened to Ariel tore apart their friendship and left Evan and Ariel's boyfriend, Jack, bereft. Evan seems to teeter on the edge of sanity, musing about fractals and binary numbers and "so many frequencies playing in my mind." When photographs with ties to Ariel begin appearing on Evan's route home and in his locker, he and Jack try to track down the connection.

LIE by Bock (YA Bock)
Grades 7 & up
The local teens call it beaner hopping, an ugly phrase that translates as harassing and even assaulting Latinos. It's a weekend ritual that's regarded as harmless fun until the Saturday that things go terribly wrong and two young Latinos wind up in the hospital, one of them near death. The teens involved in the incident must decide which is preferable - a lie or the truth.

**MY BIG MOUTH: 10 SONGS I WROTE THAT ALMOST GOT ME KILLED** by Hannan (YA Hannan)
Grades 6-9
Davis’s attempts to blend in quickly land him on the wrong side of school bully Gerald “the Butcher” when he forms a band with Gerald's cute girlfriend, Molly, and her dweeby friend, Edwin.

**STEAMPUNK!: AN ANTHOLOGY OF FANTASTICALLY RICH & STRANGE STORIES** edited by Link & Grant (YA Steampunk)
Grades 8 & up
The gears, goggles, automatons, and dirigibles are all here, but these gifted writers have used the steampunk trappings as a launchpad, leaping into their own unique explorations of what it is to be human in a world influenced by technology. Settings range from Appalachia to a Pacific island to an alternate Wales - everything but Victorian London.
A Monster Calls by Ness (YA Ness)  
Grades 7 & up  
As Conor watches his mother succumb to cancer, he is pummeled by grief, anger, isolation, helplessness, and something even darker. At night, when he isn’t trapped in a recurring nightmare too terrible to think about, he is visited by a very real monster in the form of a giant yew tree. The monster tells Conor three ambiguous, confusing stories, then demands a final one from the boy, ‘One that will tell me your truth.’

Christopher Creed series by Plum-Ucci (YA Plum-Ucci)  
Grades 8 & up  
Chris Creed grew up as the class freak - the bullies’ punching bag. After he vanished, the weirdness that had once surrounded him began spreading. And it tore the town apart. Sixteen-year-old Torey Adams’s search for answers opens his eyes to the lies, the pain, and the need to blame someone when tragedy strikes, and his once-safe world comes crashing down around him. (The Body of Christopher Creed, Following Christopher Creed)

Leviathan Trilogy by Westerfeld (YA Westerfeld)
Grades 7 & up
This is World War I as never seen before. The story begins the same: on June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife are assassinated, triggering a sequence of alliances that plunges the world into war. But that is where the similarity ends. This global conflict is between the Clankers, who put their faith in machines, and the Darwinists, whose technology is based on the development of new species.

*(LEVIATHAN, BEHEMOTH, GOLIATH)*

**SKINJACKER TRILOGY** by Shusterman (YA Shusterman)
Grades 8 & up
Following a fatal car accident, teenagers Nick and Allie collide with each other on the way toward the light and are shoved into an alternate state of existence. No longer living but not yet at the end of their journey, they land in Everlost, a color-bleached plane populated with child and teen spirits. There are rules in Everlost that new greensouls must learn to survive: keep moving, don't fall into a routine, don't seek the living, watch out for gangs, and steer clear of the McGill, Everlost's resident monster. *(EVERLOST, EVERWILD, EVERFOUND)*

**RED MOON RISING** by Moore (YA Moore)
Grades 8 & up
Vamps, humans, and then wulves: that's the popularity food chain in high-school freshman Danny Gray's world. He's half-vamp and half-wulf, and has undergone genetic treatments to mitigate the wulf in him, but his body appears to be betraying him. The full moon is only weeks away, and changing could be not just socially but physically fatal.
**LOOKING FOR ALASKA** by Green (YA Green)  
Grades 9 & up  
Miles "Pudge" Halter is abandoning his safe - okay, *boring* - life. Fascinated by the last words of famous people, Pudge leaves for boarding school to seek what a dying Rabelais called the "Great Perhaps." Pudge becomes encircled by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. Their nucleus is razor-sharp, sexy, and self-destructive Alaska, who has perfected the arts of pranking and evading school rules.

**PAPER TOWNS** by Green (YA Green)  
Grades 9 & up  
When Margo Roth Spiegelman beckons Quentin Jacobsen in the middle of the night - dressed like a ninja and plotting an ingenious campaign of revenge - he follows her. Margo’s always planned extravagantly, and, until now, she’s always planned solo. After a lifetime of loving Margo from afar, things are finally looking up for Q…until day breaks and she has vanished. Always an enigma, Margo has now become a mystery. But there are clues. And they’re for Q.

**LORIEN LEGACIES** series by Lore (YA Lore)  
Grades 7 & up  
Despite the amazing powers that many of the people of Lorien possess, the planet was defeated and its natural resources looted by Mogadorians in a matter of days. Only nine children escaped with their guardians to Earth, where they
planned to hide until they developed their powers in order to defeat their enemies and revive Lorien. The Mogadorians hunt the Nine and have already killed three of them. *(I Am Number Four, The Power of Six)*

**Why We Broke Up** by Handler (YA Handler)
Grades 9 & up
Min Green and Ed Slaterton are breaking up, so Min is writing Ed a letter and giving him a box. Inside the box is why they broke up. Two bottle caps, a movie ticket, a folded note, a box of matches, a protractor, books, a toy truck, a pair of ugly earrings, a comb from a motel room, and every other item collected over the course of a giddy, intimate, heartbreaking relationship. Item after item is illustrated and accounted for, and then the box, like a girlfriend, will be dumped.

**My Name Is Not Easy** by Edwardson (YA Edwardson)
Grades 7 & up
When Luke and his brothers are sent to a punitive Catholic boarding school, he knows that he will have to sacrifice his Inupiaq name. But he isn't prepared to lose his youngest brother, Isaac, who is too young to enroll and is sent to live with a family in Texas. At Sacred Heart, Eskimos, Indians, and whites initially segregate themselves by ethnicity, but as they are touched by insidious outside forces, the racial boundaries fall away, and their voices become unified.
AU REVOIR, CRAZY EUROPEAN CHICK by Schreiber (YA Schreiber)  
Grades 8 & up  
Sad-sack Perry is going to miss his band Inchworm’s first big show because his mom is making him take their dumpy, awkward exchange student, Gobija, to the prom. Decked out in a rented tux and a frumpy Lithuanian ceremonial costume, respectively, the two teens suffer through the typical prom moments until all hell breaks loose. Gobi turns out to be an international assassin.

OUTLAW by Davies (YA Davies)  
Grades 5-8  
When Jake Knight is suspended from boarding school, he heads to Africa to spend time with his diplomat father and the rest of his family. Shortly after he arrives, Jake and his sister, Kas, are kidnapped and pulled into a conspiracy that involves crooked police officers, sociopathic spies, and Yakuuba Sor, the most wanted criminal in the country.

TYRELL series by Booth (YA Booth)  
Grades 9 & up  
At 15, Tyrell is trying to keep his little brother in school and safe in their roach-infested shelter in the Bronx. He has dropped out of school, and Moms wants him to sell drugs to make money. But Tyrell is too smart. He doesn’t want to end up in prison like his dad.
(Tyrell, Bronwood) (Related: Kendra)

**Storm Runners** series by Smith (YA Smith)
Grades 6-9
Chase Masters and his father are "storm runners," racing across the country in pursuit of hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Anywhere bad weather strikes, they are not far behind. Chase is learning more on the road than he ever would just sitting in a classroom. But when the hurricane of the century hits, he will be tested in ways he never could have imagined. (**Storm Runners, The Surge**)

**Brotherband Chronicles** series by Flanagan (YA Flanagan)
Grades 5 & up
They are outcasts. Hal, Stig, and the others - they are the boys the others want no part of. Skandians are known for their size and strength. Not these boys. Yet that doesn't mean they don't have skills. And courage - which they will need every ounce of to do battle at sea against the other bands, the Wolves and the Sharks, in the ultimate race. The icy waters make for a treacherous playing field...especially when not everyone thinks of it as playing. (**The Outcasts**) (Companion to Ranger’s Apprentice)

**The Kane Chronicles** by Riordan (YA Riordan)
Grades 4-9
Since their mother’s death six years ago, Sadie Kane has lived in London with her grandparents while her older brother has traveled the world with their father, a renowned African American Egyptologist. In London for a rare evening together, Carter and Sadie accompany their dad to the British Museum, where he blows up the Rosetta Stone in summoning an Egyptian god. Unleashed, the vengeful god overpowers and entombs him, but Sadie and Carter escape. **(The Red Pyramid, Throne of Fire)**

**Heroes of Olympus** by Riordan (YA Riordan)

Grades 4-8

Jason, Piper, and Leo are three students at a wilderness school for troubled teens, are transported to Camp Half-Blood after an unexpected encounter with evil storm spirits on the rim of the Grand Canyon. Not only do they discover that they are the offspring of ancient gods, but they also learn that they are three of seven demigods mentioned in the Great Prophecy uttered by Rachel in *The Last Olympian*. **(The Lost Hero, Son of Neptune)** (Related to **Percy Jackson & the Olympians** series.)

**Darkside** series by Becker (YA Becker)

Grades 5-9

Welcome to Darkside, a seedy, seventeenth-century underworld hidden in modern London. Created in Jack the Ripper's heyday, Darkside is elusive, magical, addictive, and dangerous, capable of driving Londoners who stumble upon it mad if they survive. Fourteen-year-old Jonathan Starling discovers Darkside and its connection to his family while searching for the key to his father's mental illness. **(Darkside, Lifeblood)**
**APPRENTICESHIP OF VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN** series by Oppel (YA Oppel)
Grades 7-10
Growing up, twin brothers Victor and Konrad fill their lives with imaginary adventures...until the day they stumble upon The Dark Library, where they discover secret books of alchemy and ancient remedies. When Konrad falls gravely ill, Victor is drawn back to The Dark Library and uncovers an ancient formula, beginning a treacherous search for the ingredients to create the forbidden Elixir of Life. (**THIS DARK ENDEAVOR**)

**RASH** by Hautman (YA Hautman)
Grades 7 & up
In the United Safer States of America of the late twenty-first century, a national obsession with safety has criminalized even minor antisocial impulses. Bo's dad was put away in '73 for roadrage; the teen's own anger issues likewise land him in one of the country's privatized penal colonies. There, he makes pizzas for McDonald's until the camp's sadistic overseer recruits him to play football. The illegal sport is brutally violent but exhilarating - and Bo, a gifted athlete, slowly begins to question his culture's basic assumptions, identifying with crotchety Gramps' view that the country went to hell the day we decided we'd rather be safe than free.
**Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy** series by Adams (Summer 11AC CP, YA Adams, YA PBK SF Adams)
Grades 9 & up
Chronicles the off-beat and occasionally extraterrestrial journeys, notions, and acquaintences of galactic traveler Arthur Dent. (*Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, Rest Stop at the End of the Universe, Life, the Universe and Everything, So Long, and Thanks for all the Fish, Mostly Harmless, The Salmon of Doubt: Hitchhiking the Galaxy One Last Time)*

**The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian** by Alexie (Summer 9AC CP)
Grades 8 & up
Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

**Clay** by Almond (YA Almond)
Grades 7 & up
The developing relationship between teenager Davie and a mysterious new boy in town morphs into something darker and more sinister when Davie learns firsthand of the boy’s supernatural powers.
TWISTED by Anderson (YA Anderson)
Grades 9 & up
After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, seventeen-year-old Tyler enjoys his tough new reputation and the attentions of a popular girl, but when life starts to go bad again, he must choose between transforming himself or giving in to his destructive thoughts.

13 REASONS WHY by Asher (YA Asher)
Grades 7 & up
When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah’s voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

THE COMING OF THE DRAGON by Barnhouse (YA Barnhouse)
Grades 5-8
Rune, an orphaned young man raised among strangers, tries to save the kingdom from a dragon that is burning the countryside and, along the way, learns that he is a kinsman of Beowulf.
THE LOVING DEAD by Beamer (YA Beamer)  
Grades 9 & up  
Kate and Michael are roommates living in the Oakland hills, working at the same Trader Joes supermarket. A night of drunken revelry changes their lives forever, but not in the way that anyone would expect. A slow-spreading plague of zombie-ism breaks out at their house party, spreading amongst their circle of friends, and simultaneously through the Bay Area.

YOU by Benoit (YA Benoit)  
Grades 8 & up  
Fifteen-year-old Kyle discovers the shattering ramifications of the decisions he makes, and does not make, about school, the girl he likes, and his future.

NICHOLAS DANE by Burgess (YA Burgess)  
Grades 9 & up  
When his single mother dies of a heroin overdose, fourteen-year-old Nick is sent into England's institutional care system, where he endures harsh punishment, sexual abuse, and witnesses horrors on a daily basis before emerging, emotionally scarred but still alive. Loosely based on “Oliver Twist.”
FLASH by Cadnum (YA Cadnum)
Grades 9 & up
Relates one momentous day in the lives of five young people in the San Francisco Bay Area, including two teenaged bank robbers, a witness, and a wounded military policeman just back from Iraq.

SWIM THE FLY by Calame (YA Calame)
Grades 8-10
In addition to the pact he makes with his best friends to see a naked girl by the end of summer, Matt Gratton sets himself the goal of impressing the star of the swim team, Kelly West, by swimming the one hundred-yard butterfly. (Followed by BEAT THE BAND.)

ENDER’S GAME series by Card (YA Card)
Grades 7 & up
An expert at simulated war games, Andrew "Ender" Wiggin believes that he is engaged in one more computer war game when, in truth, he is commanding the last Earth fleet against an alien race seeking Earth's complete destruction.
THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER by Chbosky (YA Chboksy)
Grades 9 & up
A series of letters to an unknown correspondent reveals the coming-of-age trials of a high-schooler named Charlie

AIRMAN by Colfer (YA Colfer)
Grades 7-10
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.

ARTEMIS FOWL series by Colfer (YA Colfer)
Grades 5-8
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. (ARTEMIS FOWL, THE ARCTIC INCIDENT, THE ETERNITY CODE, THE OPAL DECEPTION, THE LOST COLONY, THE TIME PARADOX, THE ARTEMIS FOWL FILES (YA G))
THE HUNGER GAMES series by Collins (Summer 10H, YA Collins)
Grades 7 & up
In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, sixteen-year-old Katniss’s skills are put to the test when she voluntarily takes her younger sister’s place. (THE HUNGER GAMES, CATCHING FIRE, MOCKINGJAY)

MASTER BLOOD TATTOO series by Cornish (YA Cornish)
Grades 7-10
Having grown up in a home for foundlings and possessing a girl’s name, Rossamünd sets out to report to his new job as a lamplighter and has several adventures along the way as he meets people and monsters who are more complicated that he previously thought. (FOUNDLING, LAMPLIGHTER, FACTOTUM)

STAYING FAT FOR SARAH BYRNES by Crutcher (YA Crutcher)
Grades 7 & up
The daily class discussions about contemporary issues serve as a backdrop for a high-school senior’s attempt to answer a friend’s dramatic cry for help.
DEADLINE by Crutcher (YA Crutcher)
Grades 9 & up
Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

LOST BOOKS series by Dekker (YA Dekker)
Grades 7-10
It has been 13 years since Black, and the Forest Guard is slowly being defeated by the Horde. Thomas Hunter is forced to lower the recruiting age from 18 to 16 in order to find enough troops to train for his armies. Of those new recruits, four are chosen to become squad leaders--two boys and two girls--but first they must pass one of Thomas's tests and bring four cacti back to the group. (CHOSEN, INFIDEL, RENEGADE, CHAOS, LUNATIC, ELYON)

THE LAST APPRENTICE series by Delaney (JF Delaney)
Grades 5-8
Young Tom, the seventh son of a seventh son, starts work as an apprentice for the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties." (REVENGE OF THE WITCH, CURSE OF THE BANE, NIGHT OF THE SOUL-STEALER, ATTACK OF THE FIEND, WRATH OF THE BLOODEYE, THE SPOOK’S TALE AND OTHER HORRORS)
ON THE DEVIL’S COURT by Deuker (YA Deuker)
Grades 8-12
Struggling with his feelings of inadequacy and his failure to make the basketball team in his new school, seventeen-year-old Joe Faust finds himself willing to trade his soul for one perfect season of basketball.

LITTLE BROTHER by Doctorow (YA Doctorow)
Grades 10 & up
After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

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. (POWDER MONKEY, PRISON SHIP, BATTLE FLEET)
**CAR TROUBLE** by DuPrau (YA DuPrau)  
Grades 8 & up  
Early one August morning, seventeen-year-old computer "nerd" Duff Pringle leaves Richmond, Virginia, in a newly-acquired used car and begins an unexpectedly convoluted journey to San Jose, California, and the job that awaits him there.

**BRAIN JACK** by Falkner (YA Falkner)  
Grades 7 & up  
In a near-future New York City, fourteen-year-old computer genius Sam Wilson manages to hack into the AT&T network and sets off a chain of events that have a profound effect on human activity throughout the world.

**STEPPING UP** by Fink (YA Fink)  
Grades 7-9  
At a competitive basketball camp, fourteen-year-old Ernie Dolan finds his just average performance separating him from his best friend Mike Rivers and the rest of the campers until a near tragedy turns Ernie from outcast to hero.
**RANGER’S APPRENTICE** series by Flanagan (YA Flanagan)
Grades 5-8

**Z** by Ford (YA Ford)
Grades 7 & up
In the year 2032, after a virus that turned people into zombies has been eradicated, Josh is invited to join an underground gaming society, where the gamers hunt zombies and the action is more dangerous than it seems.

**SPARTAN QUEST** series by Ford (YA Ford)
Grades 6-10
When slaves rebel in ancient Sparta, twelve-year-old Lysander, guarded by an heirloom amulet, the Fire of Ares, is caught between the Spartan ruling class, with whom he has been training as a warrior since his noble heritage was revealed, and those among whom he was recently laboring as a slave. (*Fire of Ares, Birth of a Warrior, Legacy of Blood)*
LOOKING FOR ALASKA by Green (YA Green)
Grades 9 & up
Sixteen-year-old Miles’ first year at Culver Creek Preparatory School in Alabama includes good friends and great pranks, but is defined by the search for answers about life and death after a fatal car crash.

AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES by Green (YA Green)
Grades 9 & up
Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

ROY MORELLI STEPS UP TO THE PLATE by Heldring (YA Heldring)
Grades 6-9
When eighth-grader Roy Morelli’s divorced parents find out he is failing history, they ban him from playing on his beloved all-star baseball team, and, even worse, he winds up being tutored by his father’s new girlfriend.
**Young Bond** series by Higson (YA Higson)
Grades 5-9
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. (*SilverFin, Bloodfever, Double or Die, Hurricane Gold, By Royal Command*)

**Crank** series by Hopkins (YA Hopkins)
Grades 8-12
Kristina Georgia Snow is the perfect daughter, gifted high school junior, quiet, never any trouble. But on a trip to visit her absentee father, Kristina disappears and Bree takes her place. Bree is the exact opposite of Kristina. Through a boy, Bree meets the monster: crank. And what begins as a wild ecstatic ride turns into a struggle through hell for her mind, her soul - her life. (*Crank, Glass, Fallout*)

**The Gatekeeper** series by Horowitz (YA Horowitz)
Grades 9 & up
Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle. (*Raven’s Gate, Evil Star, Nightrise, Necropolis: City of the Dead*)
**SON OF THE MOB** by Korman (YA Korman)
Grades 6-9
Seventeen-year-old Vince’s life is constantly complicated by the fact that he is the son of a powerful Mafia boss, a relationship that threatens to destroy his romance with the daughter of an FBI agent. (Followed by **HOLLYWOOD HUSTLE**.)

**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. (Followed by **SAGA**.)

**HERO** by Lupica (YA Lupica)
Grades 6-10
Fourteen-year-old Zach learns he has the same special abilities as his father, who was the President's globe-trotting troubleshooter until "the Bads" killed him, and now Zach must decide whether to use his powers in the same way at the risk of his own life.
INEXCUSABLE by Lynch (YA Lynch)
Grades 9 & up
High school senior and football player Keir sets out to enjoy himself on graduation night, but when he attempts to comfort a friend whose date has left her stranded, things go terribly wrong.

PENDRAGON series by MacHale (YA MacHale)
Grades 5-8

THE GUILD OF SPECIALISTS series by Mowll (YA Mowll)
Grades 5-11
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. (OPERATION RED JERICHO, OPERATION TYPHOON SHORE, OPERATION STORM CITY)
**MONSTER** by Myers (YA Myers)
Grades 7-12
While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM** series by Nix (YA Nix)
Grades 5-8
Arthur Penhaligon is supposed to die at a young age, but is saved by a key that is shaped like the minute hand of a clock. The key causes bizarre creatures to come from another realm, bringing with them a plague. A man named Mister Monday will stop at nothing to get the key back. Arthur goes to a mysterious house that only he can see, so that he can learn the truth about himself and the key. (**MISTER MONDAY**, **GRIM TUESDAY**, **DROWNED WEDNESDAY**, **SIR THURSDAY**, **LADY FRIDAY**, **SUPERIOR SATURDAY**, **LORD SUNDAY**)

**THE SEVENTH TOWER** series by Nix (YA Nix)
Grades 5-7
Tal, a Chosen of the Orange Order, is having the worst luck lately. Just when he is getting ready for the Day of Ascension - a day when all the 13-year-old Chosen from the Castle of Seven Towers enter the spirit world of Aenir - his father disappears with the family's only primary Sunstone, which Tal needs for the ascension. (**THE FALL**, **CASTLE**, **AENIR**, **ABOVE THE VEIL**, **INTO BATTLE**, **THE VIOLET KEYSTONE**)

Books for Guys
Old Bridge Public Library
**OLD KINGDOM** series by Nix (YA Nix)
Grades 7 & up
Sabriel, daughter of the necromancer Abhorsen, must journey into the mysterious and magical Old Kingdom to rescue her father from the Land of the Dead. (**SABRIEL, LIRAELE, ABHORSEN**)

**MATT CRUSE** series by Oppel (YA Oppel)
Grades 6-10
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. (**AIRBORN, SKYBREAKER, STARCLIMBER**)

**CHRONICLES OF THE IMAGINARIUM GEOGRAPHICA** series by Owen (YA Owen)
Grades 8 & up
Three young men are entrusted with the Imaginarium Geographica, an atlas of fantastical places to which they travel in hopes of defeating the Winter King whose bid for power is related to the First World War raging in the Real World. (**HERE THERE BE DRAGONS, THE SEARCH FOR THE RED DRAGON, INDIGO KING, THE SHADOW DRAGONS**)

Books for Guys
Old Bridge Public Library
**Inheritance** series by Paolini (YA Paolini)
Grades 5 & up
In Alagaësia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. (*Eragon, Eldest, Brisinger*)

**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. (*The Angel Experiment, School's Out—Forever, Saving the World & Other Extreme Sports, The Final Warning, Max, Fang*)

**Wicked Dead** series by Petrucha (YA Petrucha)
Grades 8-10
Four ghost girls, trapped in an abandoned orphanage, relate the story of high school student Mandy, who becomes caught up in a terrifying encounter after one of her classmates is tragically murdered. (*Lurker, Torn, Snared, Crush, Prey, Skin*)
**KING DORK** by Portman (YA Portman)  
Grades 9 & up  
High school loser Tom Henderson discovers that "The Catcher in the Rye" may hold the clues to the many mysteries in his life.

**THE HUNGRY CITY CHRONICLES** series by Reeve (YA Reeve)  
Grades 7-10  
As the story opens, the great Traction City of London is chasing a small town. When one city takes over another, it processes all reusable materials to create power to run the motorized wheels that enable the city to travel over the land. London's mayor has bigger plans than the domination of a small town, plans involving the use of the weapon that laid waste to Earth millennia earlier.  
(MORTAL ENGINES, PREDATOR’S GOLD, INFERNAL DEVICES, A DARKLING PLAIN, PREQUEL: FEVER CRUMB)

**THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS** by Reinhardt (YA Reinhardt)  
Grades 7 & up  
In a Boston suburb, Levi's older brother, Boaz, has just returned from fighting in some desert country half a world away. The U.S. Marines say Boaz is healthy, but Levi thinks otherwise; Boaz doesn't want to ride in a car, sleep in a bed, or even come out of his room, and he dives for cover at unpredictable moments. Levi misses Boaz as he remembers him, before he left two years earlier: a high-school hero; a happy, well-adjusted son and grandson; and a difficult but still-wonderful older brother.
**Percy Jackson and the Olympians** series by Riordan (YA Riordan)
Grades 5-9
After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods. (*The Lightning Thief, The Sea of Monsters, The Titan’s Curse, Battle of the Labyrinth, The Last Olympian*)

**Strongbow Saga** series by Roberts (YA Roberts)
Grades 9 & up
Despite being the son of a chieftain and a princess, fourteen-year-old Halfdan lives as a slave in Denmark in A.D. 845 but through a tragic bargain he gains his freedom and sets out to claim his birthright. (*Viking Warrior, Dragons from the Sea, The Road to Vengeance*)

**Peak** by Roland (YA Roland)
Grades 6 & up
A fourteen-year-old boy attempts to be the youngest person to reach the top of Mount Everest.
**The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel** series by Scott (YA Scott)
Grades 6-9
While working at pleasant but mundane summer jobs in San Francisco, fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, suddenly find themselves caught up in the deadly, centuries-old struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient and powerful book holding the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life. (*The Alchemyst, The Magician, The Sorceress, The Necromancer*)

**Unwind** by Shusterman (YA Shusterman)
Grades 9 & up
In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives “unwound” and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs--and, perhaps, save their own lives.

**Lockdown** by Smith (YA Smith)
Grades 7-10
Alex is put into Furnace Penitentiary – an underground prison – for a crime he didn’t commit. He’s there for the rest of his life. Unless he escapes. But first he has to worry about surviving in a terrifying prison patrolled by furless dogs and guards in black suits and gas masks.
**NOTHING** by Teller (YA Teller)
Grades 7 & up
When thirteen-year-old Pierre Anthon leaves school to sit in a plum tree and train for becoming part of nothing, his seventh grade classmates set out on a desperate quest for the meaning of life.

**HARD HIT** by Turner (YA Turner)
Grades 7-10
A rising high school baseball star faces his most difficult challenge when his father is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**10TH GRADE** by Weisberg (YA Weisberg)
Grades 9 & up
Recreates a school year in the life of teenager Jeremy Reskin, who falls madly in love with the new girl in school and deals in his own way with classes, sports, family conflicts, peer pressure, romance, and hanging out.
**I AM THE MESSENGER** by Zusak (YA Zusak)  
Grades 9 & up  
After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

**TEARS OF A TIGER** by Draper (YA PBK FIC Draper)  
Grades 9 & up  
The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

**BRONX MASQUERADE** by Grimes (YA PBK FIC Grimes)  
Grades 8 & up  
While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.