

North American Martyrs Recommended Reading List

Reading Level	Interest Level	Author	Title
2.5	4-6	Franklin, Kristine	Nerd No More <i>Wiggie Carter gets himself into real trouble because he tries desperately to be a cool kid instead of a nerd with a mom who hosts a TV science show.</i>
3	2-4	Bunting, Eve	Nasty, Stinky Sneakers <i>Will 10 year old Colin find his sneakers in time to enter the Stinkiest Sneakers in the World contest?</i>
3	3-6	DiCamillo, Kate	Because of Winn-Dixie <i>Because of Winn-Dixie, a big, ugly, happy dog, 10-year-old Opal learns 10 things about her long-gone mother, she makes some new unusual friends and she begins to find her place in the world.</i>
3	3-6	DiCamillo, Kate	Tiger Rising <i>Rob, who passes the time in his rural Florida community by carving wood is drawn by his spunky but angry friend, Sistine, into a plan to free a caged tiger.</i>
3	3-6	Colfer, Eoin	The Wish List <i>Orphan Meg Finn's soul becomes the object of a battle between the demonic and the divine after she accidentally dies while attempting to rob an elderly man. She arrives in the afterlife to find the tally on her good and evil deeds is dead even.</i>
3	3-5	Fleischman, Sid	The Whipping Boy <i>A young orphan serves as the whipping boy for a prince who misbehaves.</i>
3	3-5	Hesse, Karen	The Music of Dolphins <i>Using computer technology, a 15-year-old girl who has been raised by dolphins, records her thoughts about her reintroduction to the human world</i>
3	3-5	MacLachlan, Patricia	Sarah, Plain and Tall <i>Two children wait on the prairie for the arrival of a New England woman who has answered their father's ad for a wife</i>
3	5-6	Rinaldi, Ann	The Fifth of March <i>14 year-old Rachel Marsh, an indentured servant in the Boston household of John and Abigail Adams, is caught up in the colonists' unrest that eventually escalates into the massacre of March 5, 1770.</i>
3	5-6	Rinaldi, Ann	Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons

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			<i>An 18th century African woman who, as a child, was brought to New England to be a slave, and after publishing her first poem when a teenager, gained renown throughout the colonies as an important African-American poet.</i>
3.5	4-6	Byars, Betsy	The Pinballs <i>Two boys and a girl meet in the foster home where they've been sent to live.</i>
3.5	5-6	Colfer, Eoin	The Supernaturalist <i>In a distant time, orphans are put to work testing dangerous products. Many die by age 15, but one boy escapes to learn he has a special power.</i>
3.5	3-6	DeClements, Barthe	Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade <i>Initially repelled by an overweight new student who has serious home problems, the fifth grade class finally learns to accept her.</i>
3.5	5-6	Funke, Cornelia	The Thief Lord <i>Orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle meet a mysterious 13-year-old boy who calls himself the Thief Lord and leads a ring of street children in petty crimes.</i>
3.5	4-6	Peck, Richard	A Year Down Yonder <i>A sequel to A Long Way from Chicago, 15 year old Mary Alice takes the train from Chicago to spend a year with her Grandma where she experiences funny and exciting adventures in a small town in central Illinois in 1937.</i>
3.5	3-5	Rockwell, Thomas	How to Eat Fried Worms <i>Billy takes on a bet -- he will eat 15 worms a day.</i>
3.5	5-6	Sachar, Louis	Holes <i>As evidence of his family's bad fortune due to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.</i>
3.5	4-6	Yep, Laurence	Hiroshima <i>Description of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, particularly as it affects Sachi, who becomes one of the Hiroshima Maidens.</i>
4	4-6	Avi	Nothing But the Truth <i>After Phillip, a clownish, unmotivated freshman is</i>

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			<i>punished for causing a disturbance, facts about the incident become exaggerated until it turns into a national scandal. Phillip's supporters accuse the school of being unpatriotic. Phillip gains fame as a martyr for freedom; his teacher however, faces dismissal from her job.</i>
4	5-6	Bauer, Joan	Hope Was Here <i>A 16 year old becomes involved in a campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.</i>
4	5-6	Blume, Judy	Starring Sally J. Freedman as Herself <i>While spending the winter of 1947-1948 in Miami Beach with her family, 10 year-old Sally makes up stories, casts herself in starring roles in movies, and encounters a sinister stranger.</i>
4	5-8	Choldenko, Gennifer	Al Capone Does My Shirts <i>12-year-old boy, Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment and life with his autistic sister.</i>
4	3-6	DiCamillo, Kate	The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread <i>The adventures of a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess he loves, the servant girl who longs to be princess and a devious rat, determined to ruin them all.</i>
4	5-6	Duprau, Jeanne	City of Ember <i>An underground city surviving on stored supplies and a failing generator stretch the imagination as Lina and Doon lead a suspenseful and exciting search for a new world that might not exist, but offers the only hope for their community.</i>
4	5-6	Farmer, Nancy	The Ear, the Eye and the Arm <i>In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them.</i>
4	5-6	Farmer, Nancy	House of the Scorpion <i>In a future when humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire between Mexico and the United States.</i>
4	3-6	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Lily's Crossing

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			<i>During a summer spent at Rockaway Beach in 1944, Lily's friendship with a young Hungarian refugee causes her to see the war and her own world differently.</i>
4	3-6	Giff, Patricia Reilly	Pictures of Hollis Woods <i>Twelve year old Hollis Woods is trying to come to grips with being an orphan.</i>
4	3-6	Gilson, Jamie	Hello, My Name is Scrambled Eggs <i>Harvey looks forward to the arrival of a Vietnamese refugee family and their son, but runs into trouble with the prejudice of his American friend Quint.</i>
4	3-6	Henkes, Kevin	Olive's Ocean <i>12-year-old Martha receives a page from the journal of a classmate, Olive, who has died in an accident.</i>
4	3-6	Levine, Gail Carson	Ella Enchanted <i>In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.</i>
4	4-6	Lowry, Lois	Gathering Blue <i>Kira, newly orphaned and lame from birth, is taken to live in the grand Council Edifice because of her skill at embroidery where she is given the task of restoring a historical robe.</i>
4	4-6	Lowry, Lois	The Messenger <i>In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.</i>
4	5-6	Lowry, Lois	Number the Stars <i>Best friends Annemarie Johansen and Ellen Rosen must pretend to be sisters when Ellen's parents go into hiding to escape a Nazi roundup.</i>
4	4-6	MacLachlan, Patricia	Edward's Eyes <i>Edward belongs to a large, close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When he unexpectedly die, his parents donate his wonderful eyes to the perfect recipient.</i>
4	5-6	Rinaldi, Ann	Time Enough for Drums <i>During the Revolutionary War, Jem Emerson, a 15 year-old from New Jersey, is torn between her love</i>

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			<i>for her family and her feelings for her twenty-four-year-old tutor, John Reid, known as a Tory.</i>
4	3-6	White, E. B.	Charlotte's Web <i>Beautiful story of a friendship between Wilbur, a gentle young pig, and the beautiful and intelligent spider who saved his life.</i>
4	3-6	Selznick, Brian	The Invention of Hugo Cabret <i>When 12-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.</i>
4	1-4	Smith, Robert K.	Chocolate Fever <i>Henry Green develops the first recorded case of chocolate fever.</i>
4	4-6	Spinelli, Jerry	Wringer <i>9 year-old Palmer dreads his upcoming birthday because he must become a "wringer," one of the boys who wring the necks of wounded pigeons at the annual Pigeon Day shoot.</i>
4.5	5-6	Avi	The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle <i>13 year old girl becomes caught in a feud between a murderous captain and his mutinous crew.</i>
4.5	4-6	Bauer, Marion Dane	On My Honor <i>12-year-old Joel must learn to live with fear and grief after his friend Tony drowns in a treacherous river.</i>
4.5	5-6	Draper, Sharon	Double Dutch <i>Three 8<sup>th</sup>-grade friends, preparing for an international jump rope competition in their home town of Cincinnati, Ohio, cope with Randy's missing father, Delia's inability to read, and Yo Yo's encounter with the class bullies.</i>
4.5	5-6	Farmer, Nancy	A Girl Named Disaster <i>While journeying to Zimbabwe, 11 year-old Nhamo struggles to escape drowning and starvation and in so doing comes close to the luminous world of the African spirits.</i>
4.5	5-8	Hale, Shannon	Princess Academy <i>While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with the other girls from her mountain</i>

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			<i>village, 14-year-old Miri discovers unexpected talents and connections to her homeland.</i>
4.5	4-6	Hausman, Gerald & Loretta	Escape from Botany Bay <i>Mary, a convict being transported to Australia in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, stages a daring escape from the brutal conditions of the Botany Bay penal colony with her family and 7 other convicts</i>
4.5	5-6	Hiaasen, Carl	Hoot <i>3 very different teens unite to save the nesting ground of the burrowing owl while unraveling a sinister plot.</i>
4.5	5-8	Levine, Gail Carson	The Wish <i>When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in 3 weeks and her popularity will vanish.</i>
4.5	5-6	Lowry, Lois	The Giver <i>A haunting story, in which a boy who lives in a seemingly ideal world experiences something incredible and undertakes something impossible.</i>
4.5	5-8	Lupica, Mike	The Big Field <i>When 14-year-old baseball player Hutch feels threatened by the arrival of a new teammate named Darryl, he tries to work through his insecurities about both Darryl and his remote and silent father, who was once a great ballplayer too.</i>
4.5	5-6	Martin, Ann M.	A Corner of the Universe <i>During the summer that Hattie turns 12, her world is turned upside down with the startling arrival of a mentally disabled uncle.</i>
4.5	3-6	Mass, Wendy	Every Soul a Star <i>Ally, Bree, and Jack meet at an isolated campground, to watch a total eclipse of the sun; but soon they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe.</i>
4.5	5-6	Peck, Richard	A Long Way From Chicago <i>A boy recounts his annual trips to Illinois visit his larger-than-life grandmother with his sister during the Great Depression.</i>
4.5	5-6	Rawlings, Marjorie	The Yearling <i>A young boy living in the Florida backwoods is</i>

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			<i>forced to decide the fate of a fawn he has lovingly raised as a pet.</i>
5	5-6	Avi	Crispin: The Cross of Lead <i>A boy known as Asta's son flees for his life after his mother's death. The true identity of his parents is shrouded in mystery that leads him across 14<sup>th</sup> century feudal England in search of his real name.</i>
5	3-6	Byars, Betsy	Summer of the Swans <i>A teenage girl gains insight into herself and her family when her mentally retarded brother gets lost.</i>
5	5-6	Creech, Sharon	Walk Two Moons <i>Sal hopes her missing mother will return soon.</i>
5	3-6	Creech, Sharon	The Wanderer <i>13 year-old Sophie and her cousin Cody record their ocean voyage aboard a 45 ft. sailboat, which, along with uncles and another cousin, is en route to visit their grandfather in England.</i>
5	3-6	Dahl, Ronald	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory <i>Each of five children lucky enough to discover an entry ticket into Mr. Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory takes advantage of the situation in his own way.</i>
5	4-6	Eager, Edward	Half Magic <i>4 children find a magical coin. Well, it's not totally magic--it's only half magic. That means there's a certain logic to the wishes one must make to generate a desired outcome. Imagine the results emerging from inaccurate efforts: half invisible, half rescued, half everything!</i>
5	5-6	Gantos, Jack	Joey Pigza Loses Control <i>Joey, who is still taking medication to keep him from getting too wired, goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.</i>
5	5-6	George, Jean Craighead	My Side of the Mountain <i>Sam Gribbley spends a winter alone in the Catskill Mountains.</i>
5	5-6	Funke, Cornelia	Inkheart <i>12-year-old Meggie learns that her father, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler</i>

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			<i>named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force him to release an immortal monster from the story.</i>
5	3-6	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Found <i>When 13-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.</i>
5	5-6	Paterson, Katherine	The Great Gilly Hopkins <i>11-year-old Gilly is placed in a new foster home with an unusual foster mother.</i>
5	5-6	Reit, S.	Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy <i>In 1861, Emma Edmonds joined the Union Army disguised as a boy. She went on to serve her country as a master spy.</i>
5	3-6	Taylor, Mildred D.	Mississippi Bridge <i>In 1930s Mississippi, a small town torn by racial injustice and segregation is united by a tragic accident that changes the lives of the town's citizens forever</i>
5	4-6	Tolan, Stephanie S.	Surviving the Applewhites <i>A juvenile delinquent boy is sent to live with an unconventional family, as a last resort to rehabilitating him instead of sending him to jail.</i>
5	5-8	Wolfson, Jill	What I Call Life <i>Placed in a group foster home, 11-year-old Cal Lavender learns how to cope with life from the 4 other girls who live there and from their storytelling guardian, the Knitting Lady.</i>
5	4-6	Yee, Lisa	Millicent Min, Girl Genius <i>Millicent Min is an 11 year old genius. Her high school classmates hate her for doing to well on tests; her mother has volunteered her services as a tutor for the summer. Could life get any worse?</i>
5		Van Leeuwen, Jean	Bound for Oregon <i>The story of the journey of 9-year-old Mary Ellen Todd and her family along the Oregon Trail in 1852.</i>

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5.5	3-5	Cleary, Beverly	Ramona Quimby, Age Eight <i>Boisterous 3<sup>rd</sup> grader Ramona Quimby is accidentally squashing a raw egg in her hair at the school cafeteria, being forced to play with her annoying young neighbor, and, worst of all, throwing up in her classroom. The responsibilities of an 8-year-old can be tough, especially in a family that is trying to squeak by while the father goes back to school. be down for long.</i>
5.5	3-5	Estes, Eleanor	The One Hundred Dresses <i>A Polish immigrant wears the same dress to school every day and is mocked because of her poverty, her foreign-sounding name, and her claim she has "100 dresses." Only after she moves away do her classmates find out she really did have 100 dresses, though not in the way they expected.</i>
5.5	5-8	Forbes, Esther	Johnny Tremain <i>After injuring his hand, a silversmith's apprentice in Boston becomes a messenger for the Sons of Liberty in the days before the American Revolution.</i>
5.5	5-8	Gaiman, Neil	The Graveyard Book <i>The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of 18 months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of 18 years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.</i>
5.5	5-6	Hamilton, Virginia	Anthony Burns: The Defeat and Triumph of a Fugitive Slave <i>The story of the escape, the recapture, and the sensational trial, of a fugitive slave in 1854.</i>
5.5	3-5	Patron, Susan	The Higher Power of Lucky Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life
5.5	5-8	Perkins, Lynne Rae	Criss Cross <i>Teenagers in a small town in the 1960s experience new thoughts and feelings, question their identities, connect, and disconnect as they search for the meaning of life and love.</i>
5.5	5-6	Smith, Roland	The Captain's Dog My Journey with the Lewis and Clark

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			Tribe <i>Captain Meriwether Lewis's dog Seaman describes his experiences as he accompanies his master on the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the uncharted western wilderness.</i>
5.5	5-6	Taylor, Theodore	The Cay <i>Blind American boy and an old West Indian native are stranded on a Caribbean island.</i>
6	5-6	Armstrong, William	Souder <i>Wrongly accused, an innocent man and his son are saved from pursuers by their loyal dog, Souder.</i>
6	3-6	Cleary, Beverly	Dear Mr. Henshaw <i>A boy pours out his problems in letters to a writer he greatly admires.</i>
6	5-6	Cooper, Susan	The Dark is Rising <i>On his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday Will discovers he is the last of the Old Ones, destined to seek the six magical Signs that will enable the Old Ones to triumph over the evil forces of the Dark.</i>
6	4-6	Gipson, Fred	Old Yeller <i>A powerful story of a 14-year-old boy and the ugly stray dog he comes to love.</i>
6	5-6	Hesse, Karen	Out of the Dust <i>14 year-old Billie Jo reveals the grim realities of living in Oklahoma during the constant dust storms. She must face the death of her mother after a hideous accident that also leaves her piano-playing hands in pain and permanently scarred and also watch her father decay from grief and skin cancer.</i>
6	3-6	Konigsburg, E. I..	A View From Saturday <i>Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their 6<sup>th</sup> grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.</i>
6	3-6	Korman, Gordan	Swindle <i>After an unscrupulous collector cons him out of a valuable baseball card, 6th-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into a heavily guarded store to steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.</i>

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6	5-8	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	<p>Agony of Alice</p> <p><i>Alice is growing up without a mother to advise her and has only her father and brother, who aren't much help.</i></p>
6	4-6	Park, Linda Sue	<p>A Single Shard</p> <p><i>Set in 12th-century Korea, Crane-man (so called because of one shriveled leg) raises 10-year-old orphan Tree Ear. The pair reside under a bridge, surviving on cast-off rubbish and fallen grains of rice, but believe "stealing and begging... make a man no better than a dog." Tree Ear accidentally destroys a piece of pottery made by the town's most talented craftsmen, and pays his debt in servitude for nine days.</i></p>
6	5-6	Philbrick, Rodham	<p>Freak the Mighty</p> <p><i>At the beginning of 8<sup>th</sup> grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.</i></p>
6	4-6	Sewell, Anna	<p>Black Beauty</p> <p><i>The story of a horse's long and varied life, from a well-born colt in a pleasant meadow to an elegant carriage horse for a gentleman, to a painfully overworked cab horse. Set in 19<sup>th</sup> century England.</i></p>
6	5-8	Spinelli, Jerry	<p>Star Girl</p> <p><i>Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.</i></p>
6.5	5-8	Lupica, Mike	<p>Travel Team</p> <p><i>After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the same team his dad once led to nationals -- 12-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.</i></p>
7	3-6	Burnett, Francis H.	<p>The Secret Garden</p> <p><i>Three children find a secret garden and make it bloom again; the garden, in turn, changes the children.</i></p>
7	5-6	Curtis, Christopher Paul	<p>Bud, Not Buddy</p> <p><i>10 year-old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint, Michigan, during the Great Depression, escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father--the renowned</i></p>

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			<i>bandleader, H.E. Calloway of Grand Rapids.</i>
7	5-6	De Angeli, Marguerite	The Door in the Wall <i>Set in the 14th century, the classic story of one boy's personal heroism when he loses the use of his legs.</i>
7	5-6	Fox, Paula	The Slave Dancer <i>14-year-old Jessie is kidnapped and forced aboard an American slave ship bound for Africa.</i>
7	5-6	Horvath, Polly	Everything on a Waffle <i>Primrose's parents have been lost at sea, but she believes without a doubt they are still alive, somewhere. She moves in with her Uncle Jack, but feels friendless. Her only real refuge is a local restaurant, where the owner, serves everything on waffles -- except advice and good sense, which come free of charge and are always reliable.</i>
7	5-8	Lupica, Mike	Heat <i>Pitching prodigy Michael Arroyo is on the run from social services after being banned from Little League baseball because rival coaches doubt he is only 12 and he has no parents to offer them proof.</i>
7	5-8	Lupica, Mike	Miracle on 49 <sup>th</sup> Street <i>After her mother's death, 12-year-old Molly learns that her father is a famous basketball star.</i>
7	5-6	Rylant, Cynthia	Missing May <i>After being passed among relatives, Summer joins her aunt and uncle and marvels at the couple's deep love for one another. But after Aunt May dies, Summer and Uncle Ob are brought together in their struggles to come to terms with the death. Cletus, a neighbor boy, comes along to help provide an answer.</i>
7.5	4-6	Creech, Sharon	Love That Dog <i>Jack is upset because Miss Scratchberry is making him read and write poetry. Jack believes that men don't write poetry.</i>
7.5	5-6	Paulsen, Gary	Hatchet <i>Following a plane crash, a boy survives 54 days in the Canadian wilderness.</i>
8	5-6	Cooper, Susan	The Boggart <i>When the Volnik family in Toronto inherits an</i>

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			<i>ancient castle in Scotland, they also inherit the Boggart, a mischievous spirit that has lived there for centuries.</i>
8	5-6	Hunt, Irene	Across Five Aprils <i>Young Jethro Creighton grows from a boy to a man when he is left to take care of the family farm in Illinois during the difficult years of the Civil War.</i>
10	5-6	Murphy, Jim	An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 <i>A dramatic recount of the true story of the yellow fever epidemic that nearly decimated the population of Philadelphia at the end of the 18th century.</i>
	3-6	Silverstein, Shel	Where the Sidewalk Ends

Reading Level	Series	
1-2	Parish, Peggy	Amelia Bedelia
1-3	Seuss, Dr.	Various titles
1-2.5	Sharmat, Marjorie	Nate the Great
1.5-2.5	Lobel, Arnold	Frog and Toad
2-3	Bridwell, Norman	Clifford, the Big Red Dog
2-3	McDonald, Megan	Judy Moody
2-3	Park, Barbara	Junie B. Jonies
2.5 – 4	Blume, Judy	Fudge Series
2.5-4	Krulik, Nancy	Katie Kazoo Switcheroo
2.5-4	Osborne, Mary Pope	Magic Tree House
3-5	Sobol, Donald	Encyclopedia Brown
3.5-6	Colfer, Eoin	Artemis Fowl
3.5-5	Korman, Gordan	Kidnapped
4	Farley, Walter	The Black Stallion
4-5	Fitzgerald, John D.	The Great Brain
4-6	Wilder, Laura I.	Little House

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5-6		Montgomery, Lucy Maud	Anne of Green Gables
5-8		Mazer, Harry	Adam Pelko (NOTE: A Boy at War is slightly more difficult than others in this series)
7-8		Banks, Lynn Reid	Indian in the Cupboard
8		Snicket, Lemony	Series of Unfortunate Events