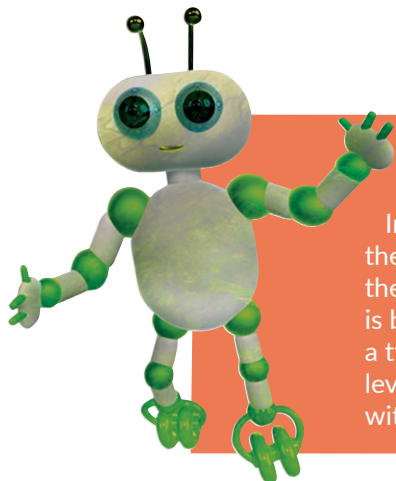


# DISCOVER NEW WORLDS

**2023 Kolbe Summer Reading Program**

**Sci-Fi &  
Fantasy  
Adventures**

 **KOLBE**  
ACADEMY



## HELPFUL TIP!

In addition to titles and authors, this catalog also provides you with the Reading Level of each book. You'll find it marked as "RL" under the title. Reading level indicates the difficulty of text sentences and is based on grade level. So a book with a RL: 5.0 would mean that a typical fifth grader could read the words independently. Reading level is a measure of the text, and does not necessarily correspond with the age appropriateness of the content.

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## FANTASY FOR LIFE

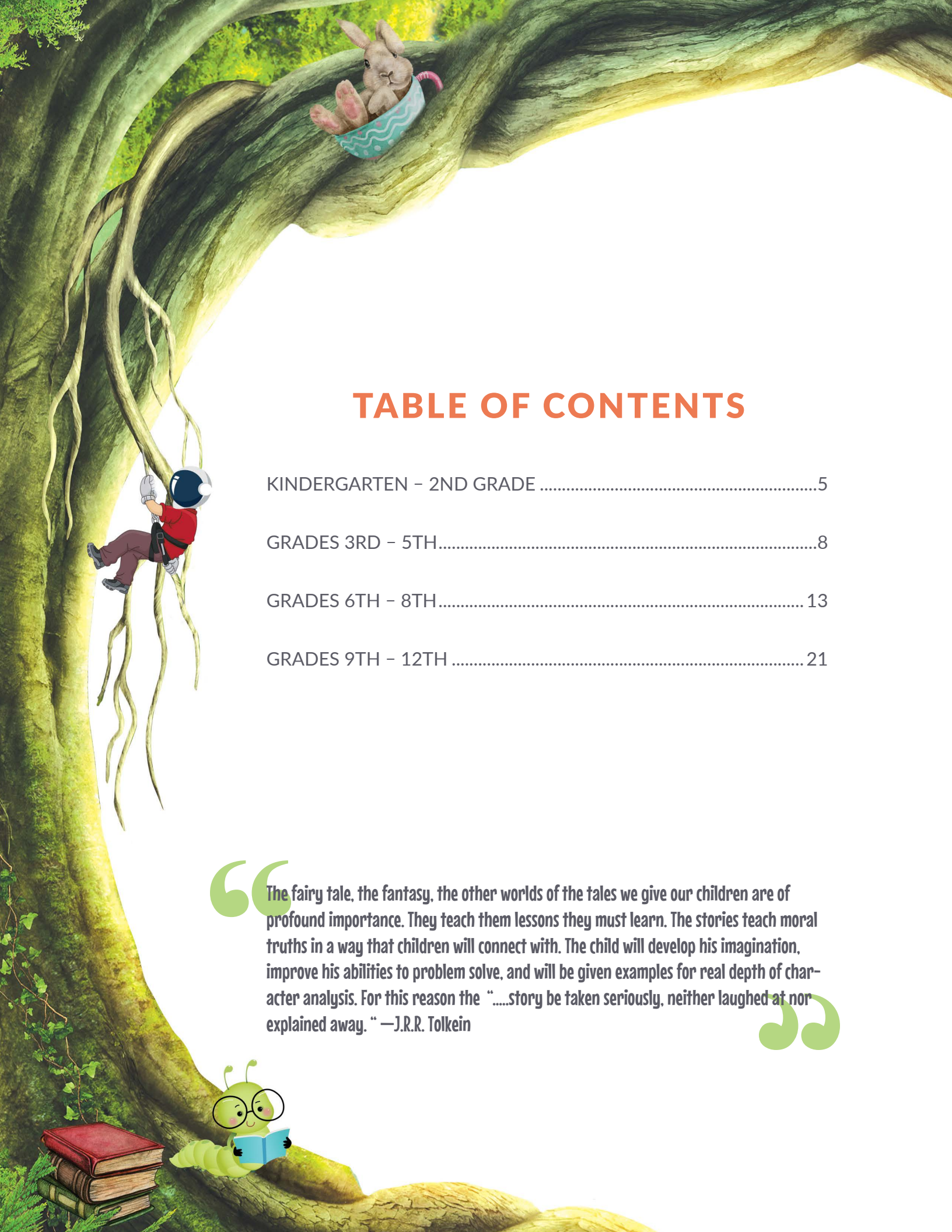
What authors helped shape western civilization? While that list could vary from person to person, everyone would include great writers such as Homer, Shakespeare, Dante, and Vergil. Certainly, their literary masterpieces tell tales that speak to timeless truths. However, an oft-neglected area of important study is the realm of fantasy, which often originates in ancient myths.

Interestingly, fantasy has its origins in the great works and the old tales of centuries past. For example, the gods and goddesses of Greece play a role in the tales of Homer; Shakespeare has magical fairy worlds in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In *Beowulf* there are dragons and hideous monsters that must be fought. In the more traditional sense, fantasy has made-up magical worlds and science fiction has made-up worlds that are replete with futuristic science and technology or alien worlds.

Fantasy is more important than most realize. In fact, with the push for real-world scenarios today, children are being deprived of an opportunity that is essential to their executive functioning skills; namely, immersing themselves in a fantasy world and playing fantasy games. The fantasy stories and the games that follow from them lead to many important benefits: better executive function, better people skills and emotional awareness, improved working memory, a sense of wonder and creativity, and increased vocabulary.

Fantasy reading inspires fantasy play in young children, who learn by modeling. Countless studies have shown that children who have been exposed to fantasy and play fantasy games have better executive function. This is no surprise because good executive function requires the ability to switch back and forth between tasks. Students who practice switching back and forth between this world and their fantasy world will have experience in this area. In the words of Dr. Greer from the magazine *Parenting Science*, "You need to be good at task-switching, juggling information in working memory, and self-regulation."

Several studies have also pointed out that fantasy play enhances a child's understanding of other people's emotions. Imagining alternate realities may be good practice for imagining what goes on in another individual's head. It's not surprising then that studies have shown students who had a strong orientation to fantasy had developed more sophisticated abilities to empathize with others. This is perhaps because these students have been able to consider the actions of the fantasy characters well, and put themselves in the place of those they are considering objectively. Also, fantasy play sessions will require the children to work together, not simply enforce rules. Little children need these opportunities to work together and think of others. *Continued on page 20 . . .*



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“The fairy tale, the fantasy, the other worlds of the tales we give our children are of profound importance. They teach them lessons they must learn. The stories teach moral truths in a way that children will connect with. The child will develop his imagination, improve his abilities to problem solve, and will be given examples for real depth of character analysis. For this reason the “.....story be taken seriously, neither laughed at nor explained away.” —J.R.R. Tolkein



# STORYTIME

## Kindergarten to Second Grade

Introduce your little ones to new and beautiful worlds. Stories can stimulate their impressionable minds, filling the imagination with tales of heroism beyond the ordinary. Talking animals, dragons, princesses, knights, and magic can open young minds to the goodness and beauty of creation.



LLOYD ALEXANDER

**The House Gobbaleen**

Unhappy over what he considers his bad luck, Tooley longs for a visit from the Friendly Folk. When a little man named Hooks shows up, Tooley ignores his cat's warnings and invites him in with the mistaken hope of improving his fortunes. But when Tooley realizes Hooks is adding to his bad luck, he and his cat scheme to get rid of him with the help of the House Gobbaleen.

RL: 4.5 | Fantasy | Book | Newbery Award-Winning Author

EVONNE BLANCHARD

**Amelia, the Moochins and the Sapphire Palace** (*Amelia's Amazing Space Adventures Book 1*)

Amelia opens a present on her eighth birthday and is surprised to find a friendly purple alien called Uglesnoo inside. Uglesnoo needs Amelia's help to cure his sick sister. Together, the two of them must travel to all the planets in the solar system to save her.

RL: 3 | Science Fiction: Aliens/Picture & Lapbook | Series

DENYS CAZET

**Minnie and Moo Save the Earth**

While unwinding in the farmer's hot tub, two cow friends mistake alien invaders for mosquitoes. As they try to eliminate the "pests," they unknowingly—and humorously—save Earth.

RL: 2 | Science Fiction: Aliens/Picture & Lapbook | Book

SUSAN COOPER

**The Silver Cow: A Welsh Tale**

A young Welsh boy named Huw plays lilting harp music that enchants the Tylwyth people. As a thank you, they send him a magic cow that makes his family rich. But when his father's greed runs out of control, the Tylwyth people seek their revenge.

RL: 4.1 | Fairy Tales/Picture & Lapbook | Book | Newbery Award-Winning Author

JENNIFER FRANTZ

**Welcome to Narnia**

Four siblings discover a magical world through a wardrobe that is stuck in a perpetual winter.

RL: 3.3 | Fantasy | Series | Adaptation: I Can Read Books, Level 2

RUTH STILES GANNETT

**My Father's Dragon** (*My Father's Dragon Book 1*)

Elmer Elevator dreams of flying, so when he hears of a captive dragon on Wild Island rumored to grant a free ride to anyone who frees it, he hides aboard a ship to the island. Once there, he encounters hungry tigers, an irate gorilla, cranky crocodiles, and other moody creatures.

RL: 5.6 | Fantasy | Book

DAN GREENBURG

**Through the Medicine Cabinet** (*The Zack Files Book 2*)

After Zack opens his medicine cabinet one morning and sees a boy who could be his double staring back at him, he enters a parallel universe the inhabitants consider much cooler than his world.

RL: 3.2 | Fantasy | Series

SHANNON HALE AND DEAN HALE

**The Princess in Black** (*The Princess in Black Book 1*)

Princess Magnolia is enjoying hot chocolate and scones with Duchess Wigtower when the monster alarm sounds. Princess Magnolia is no match for the big blue monster threatening the goats, but her alter ego—the Princess in Black—is just the girl for the job. The princess must sneak away from her royal meeting, slip into her disguise, and defeat the monster before the nosy duchess discovers her secret.

RL: 3.5 | Fantasy | Series

BEN HATKE

**Julia's House for Lost Creatures** (*Julia's House Book 1*)

Julia loves everything about her new neighborhood except how quiet it is. When she turns her house into a home for lost creatures, she soon finds it filled with goblins, mermaids, fairies, and even a dragon. Quiet isn't a problem any longer—but getting everyone to behave is.

RL: 2.4 | Fantasy/Picture & Lapbook | Trilogy | Catholic Author

BEN HATKE

**Little Robot**

When a young girl comes across an adorable robot in the woods, she accidentally activates him and finds her first friend. But the big, bad robots are coming to steal her new friend away—unless she can stop them with her wrench and fierce loyalty.

RL: 1.5 | Science Fiction | Book | Catholic Author | Graphic Novel

KATE MCMULLAN AND ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** (*Stepping Stone Book Classics*)

An adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson story. A well-respected doctor takes a magic potion at night that turns him into a murderous madman.

RL: 2.6 | Fantasy | Book | Adaptation

MARGARET MCNAMARA

**The Three Little Aliens and the Big Bad Robot**

In this story reminiscent of *The Three Little Pigs*, three aliens set off to find a new planet for themselves. But soon Bork and Gork end up victims of the Big Bad Robot's cracks and smacks and whacks to their houses. It is up to Nklxwcyz to build a home strong enough to withstand the Big Bad Robot.

RL: 3.4 | Science Fiction: Aliens/Picture & Lapbook | Book

DIANE STANLEY

### Roughing It on the Oregon Trail (Time-Traveling Twins Book 1)

Twins Liz and Lenny, along with their time-traveling grandmother, journey west on foot and by covered wagon on the Oregon Trail. Along with a group of pioneers, they must battle floods and droughts, brave the mountains and valleys, and scavenge for food.

RL: 4.3 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Series

DIANE STANLEY

### The Trouble with Wishes

Jane wishes she had talents like her friend Pyg, the sculptor, while Pyg wishes his statue of a beautiful goddess were real. But when Pyg's wish comes true and the statue comes to life, they both learn to be careful what they wish for. This story is based on the Greek myth of Pygmalion.

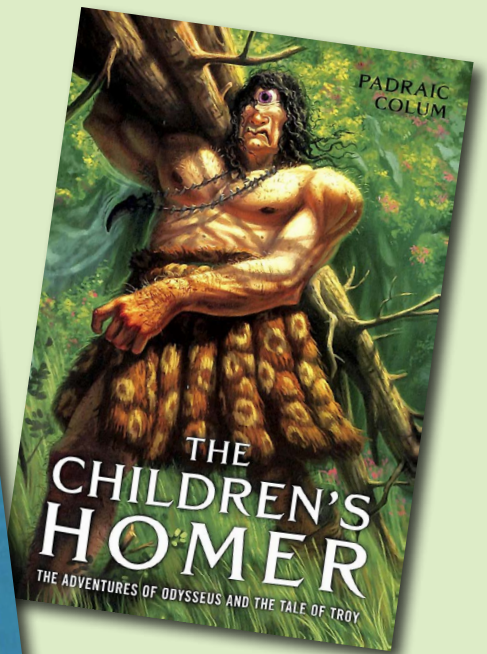
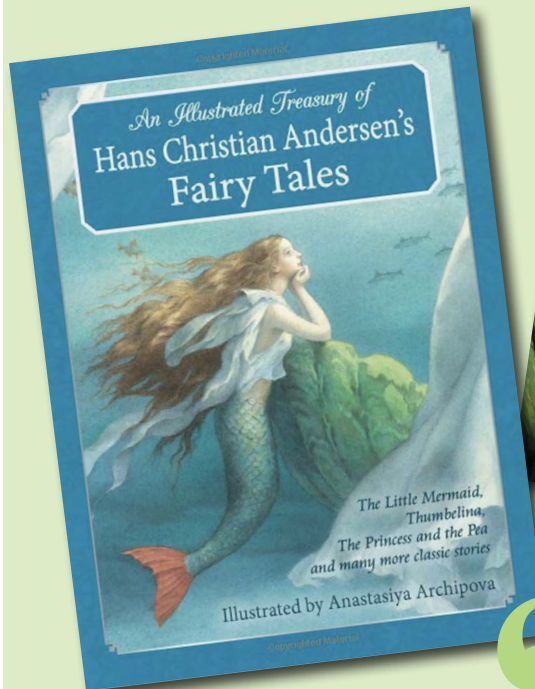
RL: 3.6 | Fantasy/Picture & Lapbook | Book

JAMES THURBER

### The 13 Clocks

The wicked Duke believes he has frozen time—all thirteen clocks in the castle—to prevent his niece from marrying and leaving. But when a prince in disguise arrives, both the Duke and the Princess may have met their match.

RL: 4.9 | Fairy Tales | Book | 1950



“Actually the best gift you could have given her was a lifetime of adventures.”

—Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

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## A GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S BOOKS

### PICTURE BOOKS

Picture & Lapbooks are great books to just hand to your child to look at, as well as read to your child. Children can use the pictures to recall the stories and relive them in their minds.

### STORYBOOKS

Storybooks include many timeless stories. These are the classics! Many of these might appeal to the whole family.

### READERS

Readers are great books for beginning readers. Does your little one want to spread his wings and start reading on his own? These books are great for the new reader.



# LET'S ADVENTURE

Third Grade to Fifth Grade

Reading is so much more than an entertaining tale. Reading encourages creativity, increases a child's focus and vocabulary, and it gives the child something truly worthy of shared communication. In sharing his ideas and thoughts, the child begins to wonder; he is stepping outside himself and exploring the world around him. Reading is also a place where, because the child can immerse himself in another world, he will be wholly present to that world, thinking deeply about one thing.



LLOYD ALEXANDER

### **The Black Cauldron** **(The Chronicles of Prydain Book 2)**

Taran, Assistant Pig-Keeper, and his companions set out on a journey to save Prydain. To do so, they must destroy the Black Cauldron, which Arawn, the Lord of the Land of Death, uses to create his soldiers.

RL: 5.3 | Epic Fantasy | Series | 1966 |  
Newbery Honor

LLOYD ALEXANDER

### **The Arkadians**

Lucian, on the run to escape soothsayers out for his life, joins with Fronto, a poet-turned-donkey, and Joy-in-the-Dance, a girl with magical powers, on a quest through the land of Arkadia that will change their lives.

RL: 5.4 | Fantasy | Book |  
Newbery Award-Winning Author

LLOYD ALEXANDER

### **Time Cat: The Remarkable Journeys of Jason and Gareth**

When Jason discovers his cat Gareth can travel through time, the two of them embark on nine adventures to historical times and places.

RL: 4.7 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Book |  
Newbery Award-Winning Author

RAYMOND ARROYO

### **The Relic of Perilous Falls** *(Will Wilder Book 1)*

When Will Wilder “borrows” a sacred relic protecting Perilous Falls for the past century, he unlocks his otherworldly gift and awakens an ancient evil endangering the town. As boats sink and hideous creatures creep from the waters, Will is the only one who can see the supernatural enemy—and the only one who can confront them. Along with his great-aunt Lucille, the curator of a museum of supernatural artifacts, Will must save the town before the enemy destroys it.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Series | Catholic Author

LYNNE REID BANKS

### **The Indian In The Cupboard**

A young boy receives a gift that he finds out is magical when it transforms his plastic toy into a living person.

RL: 4.6 | Fantasy | Book

ANNABETH BONDOR-STONE  
AND CONNOR WHITE

### **Jaclyn Hyde**

In this modern retelling of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Jaclyn uses a potion to finally be what she’s always wanted to be—perfect. But when the potion turns her into Jackie, a ruthless monster who won’t stop until she’s on top, she must risk it all to stop her alter-ego and save the school—even if it means admitting she’s not so perfect after all.

RL: 4.5 | Fantasy | Book |  
Based on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

MOLLY BROOKS

### **Sanity & Tallulah** *(Sanity & Tallulah Book 1)*

Sanity and Tallulah live in a space station. When Sanity’s three-headed kitten escapes, the pair must find her before she destroys their home.

RL: 3.9 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure |  
Series | Graphic Novel

PETER BROWN

### **The Wild Robot** *(The Wild Robot Book 1)*

Roz the robot is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of her past. Her only hope of survival is to learn about her new environment from the island’s hostile animal inhabitants. But when she starts to feel at home, she faces a new challenge as her memory comes back to haunt her.

RL: 5.1 | Science Fiction | Duology

SUSAN COOPER

“Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed.”  
— G.K. Chesterton

### **Over Sea, Under Stone** *(The Dark is Rising Book 1)*

While visiting Cornwall, the three Drew children find a map in the attic. When they discover it’s the key to locating a grail capable of fighting the Dark, they risk their lives to find the object and save the world.

RL: 5.4 | Fantasy | Series | 1965 |  
Newbery Award-Winning Author

SUSAN COOPER

### **The Magician’s Boy**

The Boy desperately wants to learn magic while working for the Magician, but he is given simple tasks like polishing the Magician’s wand and operating the puppets for St. George and the Dragon. But when the St. George puppet mysteriously disappears, the Magician sends the Boy into the Land of Story to find it. As he meets familiar fairy tale characters on his quest to recover the missing puppet, his life is forever changed.

RL: 4.4 | Fantasy | Book |  
Newbery Award-Winning Author

JAMES DASHNER

### **The Journal of Curious Letters** *(The 13th Reality Book 1)*

In a world where every significant choice creates an alternate reality, thirteen-year-old Atticus “Tick” Higginbottom receives mysterious letters signed only M.G. warning him of events endangering reality itself. Tick must follow the clues in the letters on a journey to the perilous Thirteenth Reality and and confront the evil Mistress Jane to discover the life he was meant to live.

RL: 6 | Fantasy | Series



LAMAR GILES

## The Last Last-Day-of-Summer

(*A Legendary Alston Boys Adventure Book 1*)

Otto and Sheed, amateur sleuths in their wacky Virginia town, are craving more time for fun before summer ends, even as they bicker over what kind of fun to have. When a mysterious man appears with a camera that freezes time, Otto and Sheed must learn to agree if they want to save their town—and each other—before time stops for good.

RL: 5.2 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Series | Black Representation

ELIZABETH GOUDGE

## The Little White Horse

When Maria Merryweather arrives at Moonacre Manor, she feels right at home, welcomed by everyone, especially her new guardian. But then she uncovers a secret tragedy haunting the manor and the town around it. Maria is determined to discover the whole story, fix old damages, and ensure her own happy ending.

RL: 6.8 | Fantasy | Book | 1946 | Carnegie Medal

NATHAN HALE

## One Trick Pony

In a future where aliens devour electricity, humans are on the run. Strata and her family are digital rescuers, saving electronics to keep civilization's history alive. But when Strata loses her caravan, she must turn to a robot pony to escape the aliens and defeat them.

RL: 2.7 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | Graphic Novel

BEN HATKE

## Mighty Jack

(*Mighty Jack Book 1*)

Jack is probably the only kid dreading summer, since it means taking care of his autistic kid sister while his mom works. But when Maddy finally talks, telling Jack to trade their car for some mysterious seeds, the summer starts looking up. The seeds soon grow into a magical jungle behind their house, with tiny onion babies running wild, pink pumpkins that bite, and a dragon that changes everything.

RL: 2.1 | Fantasy | Trilogy | Catholic Author | Graphic Novel | Disability Representation

BEN HATKE

## Nobody Likes a Goblin

Goblin is a happy homebody living in a cozy, rat-infested dungeon with Skeleton, his only friend. When a gang of marauders bursts in and takes Skel-ton—leaving Goblin all alone—Goblin must leave his home and find out how the rest of the world feels about goblins to save his friend.

RL: 3.2 | Fantasy | Book | Catholic Author

BEN HATKE

## Zita the Spacegirl

(*Zita the Spacegirl Book 1*)

When her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, Zita sets off to a strange planet to rescue her. With humanoid chickens and neurotic robots, Zita is in for a surprising quest, but even more shocking to her is her new role as intergalactic hero. To save the day, she must face aliens in all shapes and sizes, ancient prophecies, doomed planets, and a friendly con man who takes a mysterious interest in Zita's quest.

RL: 2.5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure Trilogy | Catholic Author | Graphic Novel

KAREN INGLIS

## The Secret Lake

(*The Secret Lake Book 1*)

When Stella and Tom move to London, they're baffled by their neighbor's dog Harry, who disappears and reappears soaking wet. On their quest to solve the riddle they find a boat, a tunnel, a secret lake, and children's voices carried by the wind. Stella and Tom realize they've traveled back in time more than a century, where they make friends and enemies and uncover surprising connections between the past and present.

RL: 4.9 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Duology

BRIAN JACQUES

## Redwall (Redwall Book 1)

In Redwall Abbey lives a community of peaceful mice who love hosting feasts and helping others. But when an army of rats led by Cluny the Scourge threatens their home, Mathias fights to defend himself, his friends, and the abbey they call home.

RL: 5.6 | Fantasy | Series

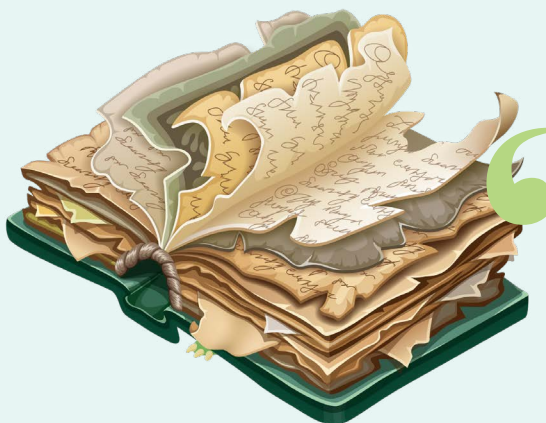
GAIL CARSON LEVINE

## A Tale of Two Castles

(*A Tale of Two Castles Book 1*)

When Elodie arrives in Two Castles with the dream of becoming an actress, she reluctantly accepts a job solving mysteries as the dragon's assistant. Her first mission takes her inside the ogre's castle, where she must disguise herself as a kitchen maid to discover the source of the threat on the ogre's life. As she unravels the mystery, she finds friendship where she least expects it, realizes that good and evil come in many forms, and learns there's more than one way to live out her acting dreams.

RL: 4.3 | Fantasy | Duology | Newbery Honor-Winning Author



“At all ages, if [fantasy and myth] is used well by the author and meets the right reader, it has the same power: to generalize while remaining concrete, to present in palpable form not concepts or even experiences but whole classes of experience, and to throw off irrelevancies. But at its best it can do more; it can give us experiences we have never had and thus, instead of ‘commenting on life,’ can add to it.”

—C.S. Lewis

GAIL CARSON LEVINE

### **Ella Enchanted** (*Ella Enchanted Book 1*)

Ella is cursed at birth with the “gift” of obedience, forcing her to do anything she’s told, no matter how strange. After her mother dies and she’s left with a loathsome stepmother, Ella’s well-being is in peril. When she sets out on a quest to undo the curse by tracking down the fairy responsible, she fends off ogres, befriends elves, and falls in love with a prince along the way.

RL: 4.6 | Fantasy | Series | 1998 | Newbery Honor

GAIL CARSON LEVINE

### **The Two Princesses of Bamarre** (*The Two Princesses of Bamarre Book 1*)

Twelve-year-old Addie is fearful of spiders while her older sister Meryl dreams of ridding the kingdom of terrifying creatures like gryphons, specters, and ogres. But when Meryl contracts the dreaded Gray Death, Addie must learn to be brave as she heads out alone on a quest to find the cure that will save her sister.

RL: 4.5 | Fantasy | Series | Newbery Honor-Winning Author

C. S. LEWIS

### **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** (*The Chronicles of Narnia Book 1*)

Four siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, ruled by the White Witch and cursed into an eternal winter. But when Aslan, the Great Lion, returns, he brings with him a great change—and a great sacrifice.

RL: 5.7 | Fantasy | Series



GEORGE MACDONALD

### **The Princess and the Goblin** (*Princess Irene and Curdie Book 1*)

When lonely Princess Irene discovers a secret stairway in her castle that leads to her great-great-grandmother living in a secret chamber, she encounters a whole new magical world with goblins and magic—and even a friend, Curdie. But the goblins imprison Curdie, and they are plotting to kidnap the princess, too. It’s up to Princess Irene and Curdie to foil their plans and save themselves and the kingdom.

RL: 6.1 | Fantasy | Duology | 1872 | Protestant Author | Strong influence on C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien

DALLAS MIDDAGH  
AND JEANNE DUPRAU

### **The City of Ember: The Graphic Novel**

In this adaptation of the Jeanne DuPrau novel, Doon and Lina live in an underground city built as a self-sufficient society. But when the lights start failing and food supplies run low, the pair must solve the clues to escape the city and find a new future for everyone.

RL: 2.4 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | Graphic Novel

E. NESBIT

### **Five Children and It** (*Five Children Book 1*)

When five siblings dig in the gravel pit, the last thing they expect to find is a Psammead—an ancient Sand-fairy. Having a Sand-fairy for a pet means having one wish granted each day. But the children don’t realize all the disastrous consequences wishes can have.

RL: 5.7 | Fantasy | Trilogy | 1902 | Film 2004

ROBERT C. O'BRIEN

### **Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH**

When Mrs. Frisby’s youngest son falls ill and cannot move to their summer home before spring plowing, Mrs. Frisby enlists the help of the Rats of NIMH. The rats are technologically advanced and literate after experiments at the NIMH laboratory boosted their intelligence and allowed for their escape. The rats come up with a brilliant plan to move her home, but to carry it out Mrs. Frisby must face the cat that killed her husband.

RL: 5.1 | Fantasy | Series

MARY C. PEARSON

### **The Gonkers Time Travel** (*The Gonkers Book 1*)

When seven siblings lay their hands on a Bible on the altar in their church, they’re transported back in time to experience historical events alongside Jesus.

RL: 5 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Series | Catholic Author | FREE eBook

ADAM REX

### **The True Meaning of Smekday** (*The Smek Series Book 1*)

Twelve-year-old Gratuity Tucci must write a paper for the National Time Capsule contest, but she’s not sure where to begin. There’s the moment her mom told everyone the aliens were sending messages through a mole on her neck, her mother’s abduction by the Boov—aliens in bizarre spaceships—and the colonization of Earth by the Boovs, who renamed it “Smekland.” As she sets out to tell the story, she befriends a Boov mechanic, journeys to find her mother, and sets out to thwart another alien invasion.

RL: 4.5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series

PATRICK SAMPHIRE

### Secrets of the Dragon Tomb (*Secrets of the Dragon Tomb Book 1*)

Twelve-year-old Edward Sullivan dreams of being a spy, but he's stuck holding his eccentric family together. But when a villainous archaeologist kidnaps his parents in an attempt to plunder an unexplored dragon tomb, Edward, his two sisters, and his cousin must evade minions and machines across the Martian wilderness to save his family.

RL: 4.7 | Steampunk | Series

S. D. SMITH

### The Green Ember (*The Green Ember Series Book 1*)

Heather and Picket are living ordinary lives in Nickhollow when their family is attacked by wolves. Escaping danger, they flee to Cloud Mountain with the help of their uncle, who informs them of their family's traitorous history contributing to the death of King Jupiter. When the king's heir is threatened by wolves, it is up to Heather and Picket to save him, and in doing so they just might redeem their family name along the way.

RL: 5.2 | Fantasy | Series | Protestant Author

EMILY MARTHA SORESENSEN

### Twenty-Four Potential Children of Prophecy (*The Numbers Just Keep Getting Bigger Book 2*)

Henina has a knack for offending people with her big mouth. When a prophecy proclaims someone will stop the war, she can't imagine someone worse for the job. But The Fates have chosen her, and she must rely on all her cleverness and gift of gab to convince the king to pick someone else.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Series | Author describes herself as writing "clean" fiction

GERONIMO STILTON

### Alien Escape (*Geronimo Stilton Spacemice Book 1*)

When Geronimo Stiltonix's spaceship is at risk of exploding, he needs to track down a rare element to replace the engine's batteries. A group of aliens claim they can help, but Geronimo must figure out if they are as friendly as they seem.

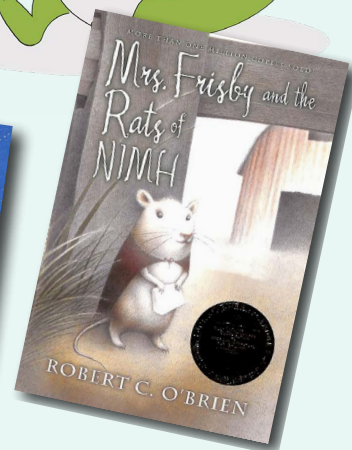
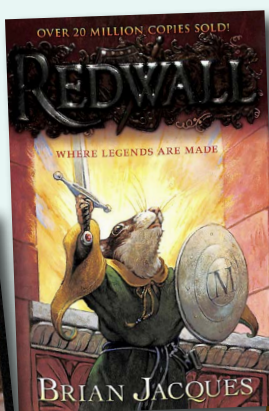
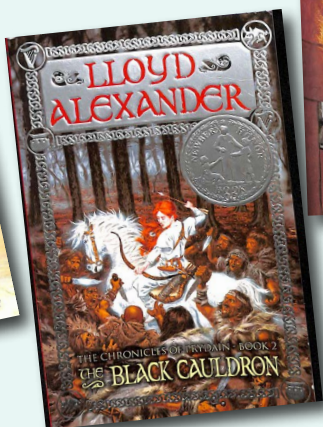
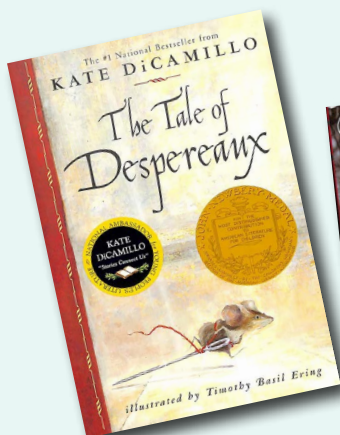
RL: 4.3 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

JILL PATON WALSH

### The Green Book

Pattie and her family flee a dying Earth to colonize a new planet that Pattie names "Shine". As crops fail and supplies dwindle, the future looks bleak. But then Pattie and her sister make an important discovery and take a leap of faith that might be the key to survival.

RL: 5.5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Book | 1982



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# ENGAGED READERS

Sixth Grade to Eighth Grade

The true classical tradition is that the fantasy worlds should not be a world presented on TV, but a world from a book. Let your student create the images in their own mind. These images he makes and holds strengthens the imagination.



JONATHAN AUXIER

## Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes

*(Peter Nimble Adventure Book 1)*

Ten-year-old blind orphan Peter Nimble has been forced into a life of thievery. When Peter steals a mysterious box that contains three sets of magical eyes, he is assigned a quest to save the people of a hidden island. Along with his sidekick, a knight who is half-horse and half-cat, his adventure on the hidden island leads him on another journey: finding his destiny.

RL: 5.7 | Fantasy | Duology |  
Based on Peter Pan

DAVE BARRY AND RIDLEY PEARSON

## Peter and the Starcatchers

*(Peter and the Starcatchers Book 1)*

Written as a prequel to Peter Pan, this high seas adventure tells the story of Peter, an orphan boy, and his friend Molly as they fight thieves and pirates to keep a fantastical secret safe from the diabolical Black Stache.

RL: 5.2 | Fantasy | Series

NANCY BOND

## A String in the Harp

When Pete and his sisters move to Wales after their mother's death, he finds a harp key that shows him visions from the life of the sixth-century bard Taliesin. As the world finds out about the key's odd properties, the siblings must work together to protect the key—and their family.

RL: 5.2 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Book | 1977 |  
Newbery Honor

RAE CARSON

## Walk on Earth a Stranger

*(Gold Seer Trilogy Book 1)*

Lee Westfall possesses a supernatural ability to sense the presence of gold. When a man rips away her home and family and tries to control her and her power, she disguises herself as a boy and flees west to Gold Rush-era California.

RL: 4.8 | Fantasy: Historical | Trilogy

SABRINA CHASE

## Jinxers

Young Jin relies on his senses and climbing skills to survive on the streets of Thama. But when he enters the rubble of an abandoned warehouse, Jin uncovers a crystal in the ashes that transports him to a new world. Branded an outsider, he must face the fort's dangers to find a way to return to Thama—and the key to his own magical powers.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Book

SABRINA CHASE

## The Last Mage Guardian

*(Guardian's Compact Book 1)*

In a world where women don't do magic, Ardhuin Andrews's great-uncle, the mage Oron, bequeaths to her his estate and a debt of magical honor. While repaying the debt, she must hide her magical talents as she encounters political intrigue, duty, and an unfinished war.

RL: 5 | Steampunk | Trilogy

JOHN CHRISTOPHER

## The White Mountains

*(The Tripods Book 1)*

In a world where giant three-legged machines control adults' minds and actions, Will Parker is about to turn thirteen and attend the Capping Ceremony, where he'll become connected to the Tripods. But when he meets a homeless stranger who tells him of the White Mountains, where people have their own will apart from the Tripods, Will sets out to find the new land. With the Tripods searching for anyone who tries to escape their control, Will and his friends must reach safety—and freedom—before they're found.

RL: 6.2 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | 1967

ANDREW CLEMENTS

## Things Not Seen

*(Things Not Seen Book 1)*

Fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up one day and finds he is invisible. With the help of his new friend he must find out what caused his new condition and how to fix it.

RL: 4.5 | Fantasy | Series |  
Disability Representation

SUSAN COOPER

## King of Shadows

In London as part of an American drama troupe, Nat Field escapes his tragic young life. When he is transported back to 1599, he finds the father figure missing from his life in William Shakespeare himself. But as he performs day after day, he starts to wonder if he will ever return back to his normal life—and new friends—or if he'll be trapped in the past forever.

RL: 6.2 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Book |  
Newbery Award-Winning Author

MELANIE CROWDER

## The Lighthouse Between the Worlds

*(Lighthouse Keepers Book 1)*

When eleven-year-old Griffin discovers the lighthouse his family tends is a hidden portal to a strange world, Griffin travels through it to save his father and all of humanity.

RL: 5.8 | Fantasy | Duology

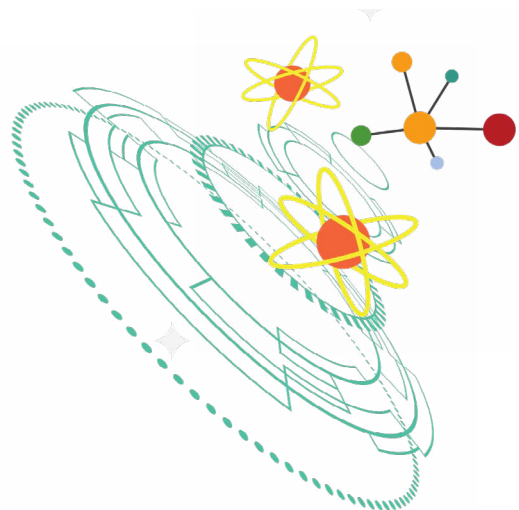
JEANNE DUPRAU

## The City of Ember

*(The City of Ember Book 1)*

Hundreds of years ago, the Builders designed the city of Ember to provide every necessity for human survival. But now, food shortages and corruption run rampant through the city, and even worse, the lights begin failing. When two children, Lina and Doon, discover an ancient message, they must solve the clues to save the city before Ember is engulfed in darkness forever.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series



NANCY FARMER

**The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm**

In Zimbabwe in the year 2194, General Matsika's children sneak out of the house on a forbidden adventure and disappear. The Ear, the Eye and the Arm, detectives with supernatural powers, pursue them to try to bring them home safely, but the children always find new peril first. The children must escape the evils of the past, the technology of the future, and the soul-devouring spirits threatening all of Zimbabwe if they want to return home.

RL: 4.7 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | Newbery Honor | Black Representation

NANCY FARMER

**The Sea of Trolls**  
(*Sea of Trolls Book 1*)

In the year 793 A.D., Jack and his sister have been kidnapped by Vikings and taken to the court of Ivar the Boneless and his terrifying half-troll wife. When Jack finds himself on a perilous quest to find the magical Mimir's Well, he must face a willful mother dragon, a giant spider, a troll-boar with a surprising personality, and several giant trolls to save his sister.

RL: 4.7 | Epic Fantasy | Trilogy

JOHN FLANAGAN

**The Ruins of Gorlan**  
(*Ranger's Apprentice Book 1*)

When fifteen-year-old Will is chosen as a Ranger's apprentice on Choosing Day, he's disappointed in the role largely requiring him to hide. But he doesn't know the Rangers are the protectors of the kingdom, fighting the battles before they reach the people, and there's a battle on the horizon. The exiled Morgarath is preparing for an attack on the kingdom, and this time he won't let anything stop him.

RL: 7 | Epic Fantasy | Series

DONAL ANTHONY FOLEY

**The Secret of Glaston Tor**  
(*The Glaston Chronicles Book 1*)

When fifteen-year-old Matt Bergin and his cousins are propelled back in time to 1940s France and the Second World War, they are given a mission from a stranger: to help a young German family escape. As they attempt to help the family and avoid the Gestapo on their trail, Matt and his cousins discover their destinies are linked to this family and to a mysterious stranger who is desperate to uncover their secret.

RL: 5 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Duology | Catholic Author

JESSICA DAY GEORGE

**Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow**

When an isbjorn (polar bear) seeks out the Lass, who has an unusual ability to understand animals, and promises her family riches if she accompanies him to his castle, she doesn't hesitate. But the bear is not what he seems, and only an arduous journey on the backs of the four winds will reveal the truth—the bear is actually an enchanted prince. The Lass must free him before he is forced to marry a troll princess.

RL: 5.4 | Fantasy | Book

JESSICA DAY GEORGE

**Tuesdays at the Castle**  
(*Castle Glower Series Book 1*)

Every Tuesday at Castle Glower, the castle adds a new room or sometimes even a whole wing. Celie is the only one who keeps track, mapping out the new additions. So, when King and Queen Glower are ambushed, Celie must use her secret knowledge of the castle's hidden rooms to protect their home and save the kingdom.

RL: 5.8 | Fantasy | Series

CONOR GRENNAN

**The Hadley Academy for the Improbably Gifted**

Jack Carlson is in the middle of class when he's transported to the Hadley Academy, a hidden institution for training teens with unlikely gifts to protect the world from a secret squad of killers. When malevolent forces grow, humanity seems to depend on Jack—the one prophesied to end the ancient Reaper War—and his new teammates, despite Jack's lack of apparent extraordinary abilities. To thwart evil, the new recruits must overcome personal struggles and self-doubt while developing their dormant powers.

RL: 4.9 | Fantasy | Book

MARGARET PETERSON HADDIX

**Among the Hidden**  
(*Shadow Children Book 1*)

Twelve-year-old Luke has spent his whole life isolated and fearful on his family's farm, hiding from the Population Police, enforcers of the law limiting a family to only two children. When he meets another shadow child named Jen, he learns of her plan to risk everything to come out of hiding. Luke isn't sure he should risk getting involved with her plan—but is it a bigger risk not to?

RL: 4.8 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series

SHANNON HALE

**Princess Academy**  
(*Princess Academy Book 1*)

When the king decides to choose a bride from Miri's village, she's thrown into a competition to become the next princess. At the newly-opened academy for princess training, Miri has to deal with a strict mistress, competition with the other girls, and her own conflicting desires about being chosen by the king versus keeping her home—and the heart of her childhood friend. But when bandits try to kidnap the future princess, Miri must rally the girls together and use a power unique to her people to save herself and her classmates.

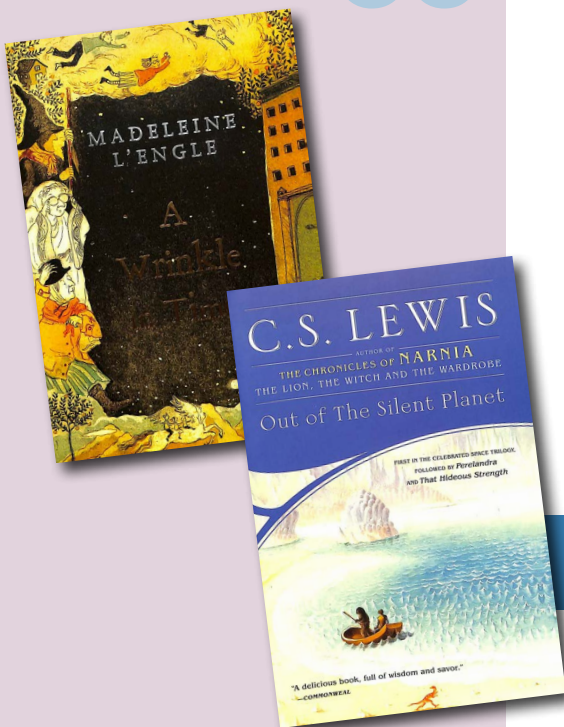
RL: 6 | Fantasy | Trilogy | 2006 | Newbery Honor

“Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others.” –Jonathan Swift



“The realm of fairy-story is wide and deep and high and filled with many things: all manner of beasts and birds are found there; shoreless seas and stars uncouth; beauty that is an enchantment, and an ever-present peril; both joy and sorrow as sharp as swords. In that realm a man may, perhaps, count himself fortunate to have wandered, but its very richness and strangeness tie the tongue of a traveller who would report them.”

—J.R.R. Tolkein, *On Fairy Stories*



JANICE HARDY

### The Shifter (*The Healing Wars Book 1*)

Fifteen-year-old Nya is an orphan and a Taker, someone who can heal others' injuries by pulling the pain into her own body. But her skill is flawed—allowing her only to shift pain from person to person, not the enchanted metal like other Takers—and if it's discovered, she'll be used as a human weapon against her own people. When her sister, Tali, and other League Healers mysteriously disappear, she must choose between using her talent for sinister purposes or sticking to her principles to get Tali back alive.

RL: 4.4 | Fantasy | Trilogy

DIANA WYNNE JONES

### A Tale of Time City

Time City—a space outside time tasked with overseeing history—starts to decay, threatening the future, past, and present. Two Time City boys break every rule to time travel to 1939 London and kidnap Vivian Smith, the girl they believe can fix it, but they have the wrong person. To return home safely, Vivian must help the boys restore Time City or risk remaining outside time forever.

RL: 5.4 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Book

NORTON JUSTER

### The Phantom Tollbooth

Milo is bored with everything, so when a mysterious tollbooth appears in his room, he has nothing better to do than drive through it. Once there, he jumps to the Island of Conclusions, learns about time from a watchdog named Tock, and attempts to rescue Rhyme and Reason. Milo's adventures are anything but boring—and he finally realizes life might not be, too.

RL: 6.7 | Fantasy | Book | 1961

CAROL KENDALL

### The Gammage Cup (*The Minnipins Book 1*)

Muggles, Gummy the poet, and Walter the Earl are banished from their village of Minnipins for disagreeing with the Minnipin leaders. But when they discover the Hairless Ones have returned and find a package of old scrolls and swords, they must rescue the very people who have cast them out.

RL: 5.9 | Fantasy | Duology | 1960 | Newbery Honor

ALETHEA KONTIS

### Enchanted (*The Woodcutter Sisters Book 1*)

Sunday Woodcutter prefers to write stories—ones that have a tendency to come true—rather than dwell on her unhappiness of being the youngest, often overlooked sister. When she kisses an enchanted frog, he transforms back into Rumbold—the crown prince of Arilland, a man Sunday's family despises—without her knowing. When Rumbold pursues her, intent on having Sunday fall in love with him as the man he is, she has to decide if she can love someone she barely knows and uncover the twisted secrets in his past and hers.

RL: 5.6 | Fantasy: Fairy Tale Retellings | Series

STEPHEN R. LAWHEAD

### In the Hall of the Dragon King (*The Dragon King Book 1*)

Quentin and his companion Theido embark on a mystic quest to deliver a sealed message to the queen. Fleeing from Prince Jaspin, who wants the crown for himself, and an evil sorcerer with a sinister plan, Quentin and Theido cross strange lands and encounter friend and foe as they journey to save the kingdom.

RL: 6.6 | Fantasy | Trilogy | Protestant Author

To register for a Kolbe Summer Reading Club and to learn about our Summer Reading Challenge visit [kolbe.org/summer-reading-program](https://kolbe.org/summer-reading-program)

MADELEINE L'ENGLE

**A Wrinkle in Time**  
**(A Wrinkle in Time Book 1)**

A strange visitor arrives at the Murry house and beckons Meg, her brother, and their friend on a dangerous journey through space and time to find Meg's father, who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government.

RL: 4.7 | Fantasy | Series | 1963 |  
Newbery Medal

C. S. LEWIS

**Out of the Silent Planet**  
**(The Space Trilogy Book 1)**

Dr. Ransom, a Cambridge academic, is abducted by a megalomaniacal physicist and his accomplice and taken to the red planet of Malacandra, which he knows as Mars. When his captors plot to offer Ransom as a sacrifice to the native creatures, he must elude his captors and risk his life as a stranger in an unknown land to return to Earth.

RL: 7.4 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Trilogy | 1943

DAVID LISS

**Randoms (Randoms Book 1)**

Randomly selected to represent humanity on an intergalactic space station, Zeke, a science-fiction superfan, is wrongly labeled a war criminal. Rejected by his fellow humans and pursued by a brutal enemy, Zeke befriends the alien randoms who were exiled by their own species. But their presence in the Confederation may not be so random after all, and as the danger grows, Zeke and his science fiction expertise might be the only thing capable of saving Earth itself.

RL: 6 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure |  
Trilogy

KATHRYN LITTLEWOOD

**Bliss (The Bliss Bakery Book 1)**

The Bliss family keeps a secret cookbook of enchanted recipes. When her parents go out of town, Rosemary and her siblings are supposed to guard the book—and not use it—but when “Aunt” Lily shows up and starts

making exotic recipes, the kids figure it can't hurt (and can only be more fun) if they crack open the book and try a few of their own.

RL: 5.8 | Fantasy | Trilogy

LOIS LOWRY

**The Giver**

Jonas lives in a community where everyone conforms to their assignments—what family they belong to, who they marry, and what career they have. At the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas is assigned Receiver of Memory, and he soon discovers complex secrets and the power of feelings. When he must save someone he loves, his own power is put to the test—and he may not be ready.

RL: 5.7 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series |  
1994 | Newbery Medal

GEORGE MACDONALD

**The Princess and the Goblin**  
**(Princess Irene and Curdie Book 1)**

When lonely Princess Irene discovers a secret stairway in her castle that leads to her great-great-grandmother living in a secret chamber, she encounters a whole new magical world with goblins and magic—and even a friend, Curdie. But the goblins imprison Curdie, and they are plotting to kidnap the princess, too. It's up to Princess Irene and Curdie to foil their plans and save themselves and the kingdom.

RL: 6.1 | Fantasy | Duology | 1872 |  
Protestant Author | Strong influence on C. S.  
Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien

LAURA MARTIN

**Glitch**

Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason are Glitchers, those who time travel to preserve historical events, but they're also sworn enemies. When they find a letter from Regan in the future warning them of a crisis that threatens the world, they must set aside their past to save the future.

RL: 6.3 | Science Fiction: Time Travel | Book

ELOISE JARVIS MCGRAW

**The Moorchild**

Moqi has always felt different than everyone else, so she spends her time on the moor where she's comfortable, playing strange music on her bagpipes. But then she discovers she's half moorfolk and was swapped at birth with her parents' human baby. When her memories with the Folk clash with her surfacing human emotions, she is indignant for the human parents who raised her and sets out to find the child whose place she took.

RL: 5.5 | Fantasy | Book | 1997 |  
Newbery Honor

PATRICIA A. MCKILLIP

**Moon-Flash**

Unhappy in her small community and full of questions about her long-lost mother, Kyreol's dissatisfaction comes to a head when she's unwillingly betrothed to Korre. Kyreol sets out on a journey with her childhood friend Terje for answers, where she encounters peoples and cultures and mysteries about the Moon-Flash her people celebrate.

RL: 4.3 | Science Fiction: Futuristic |  
Duology | 1985 | Black Representation

ROBIN MCKINLEY

**Chalice**

Mirasol is appointed as the Chalice to the new master, a Priest of Fire, but her only training is as a beekeeper. Her new role requires her to bind him to the Circle, the land, and his people. But to do so, she must overcome her lack of training and acceptance, his physical and mental alterations as a Priest of Fire—including an ability to burn human flesh—and the troubling times they live in.

RL: 7 | Fantasy | Book

SHANNON MESSENGER

## Keeper of the Lost Cities

*(Keeper of the Lost Cities Book 1)*

Twelve-year-old Sophie Foster has always felt different, especially since she has a secret—she can read minds. When she meets Fitz, another Telepath, she discovers there's a place she belongs, and she must move there to protect her family. In her new "home", Sophie's memories resurface about why she was hidden among humans, but she must figure out the mystery of her past before the wrong person discovers it first.

RL: 4.5 | Fantasy | Series

ROBERT C. O'BRIEN

## The Silver Crown

Ellen awakens to find a silver crown on her pillow, but it's not the most surprising discovery that day. Her house burns down, her family goes missing, and a suspicious man is following her. Ellen must use the power of the crown to fight the evil around her and save her family.

RL: 5.2 | Fantasy | Book

DONITA K. PAUL

## Dragonspell

*(The DragonKeeper Chronicles Book 1)*

Kale, a slave girl, has spent her life blindly following orders. But when she discovers her unusual power to find dragon eggs, she's called by the great Wulder on a quest to find the meech dragon egg stolen by the evil Wizard Risto. She must learn about her newfound powers, face enemies alongside other followers of Wulder, and attempt an impossible rescue as she sets out to save humanity.

RL: 5.2 | Epic Fantasy | Series | Protestant Author

ANDREW PETERSON

## On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness

*(The Wingfeather Saga Book 1)*

Janner Igiby, his brother, Tink, and their disabled sister, Leeli, are gifted and well-loved by their noble mother and ex-pirate grandfather. But when they're pursued by the evil Fangs of Dang, intent on ruling the land, the Igibys must rely on all their gifts and love to survive and keep safe the secret of the lost legend and jewels of King Wingfeather.

RL: 6 | Fantasy | Series | Disability Representation | Protestant Author

JONATHAN ROGERS

## The Bark of the Bog Owl

*(The Wilderking Trilogy Book 1)*

Twelve-year-old Aidan Errolson lives a noble life and longs for an adventure like from the stories of his grandparents and father. One day, he hears the bark of the bog owl and finds the feechiefolk, half-civilized swamp dwellers living beyond his father's pastures. When Bayard the Truthspeaker prophesies that Aidan will be the Wilderking, the wild man who will restore the kingdom, Aidan's world is turned upside down.

RL: 5.9 | Fantasy | Trilogy | Protestant Author

GEOFF RODKEY

## We're Not from Here

After a year on Mars, with Earth blown up, Lan and Lan's family move to the planet Choom, where they're the aliens. But the inhabitants of Choom despise humans, and it's up to Lan's family to change their minds to keep themselves and all of humanity alive.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book

BRANDON SANDERSON

## Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

*(Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians Book 1)*

On his thirteenth birthday, Alcatraz Smedry receives his inheritance—a bag of sand—and then accidentally destroys his foster parents' kitchen. He assumes the gift is a joke and his knack for breaking things a stroke of bad luck until librarians steal the sand and his grandfather appears, claiming his propensity to break things might be a secret talent. All of this is hard for Alcatraz to believe, but it's nothing compared to what his grandfather tells him next—Alcatraz must retrieve the sand from the local library before the cult of evil librarians take over the world.

RL: 4.9 | Fantasy | Series | Mormon Author

BRANDON SANDERSON

## The Rithmatist

Joel longs to be a Rithmatist, those with the ability to infuse life into two-dimensional figures called Chalklings, but he lacks the rare gift. Still, he convinces Professor Fitch to teach him about this magic, even if he can't practice it. When students start disappearing from Armedius Academy, his knowledge comes in handy, as it is up to Joel and Rithmatist apprentice Melody to uncover clues and stop the killer before the killer reaches them first.

RL: 4.9 | Steampunk | Book | Mormon Author

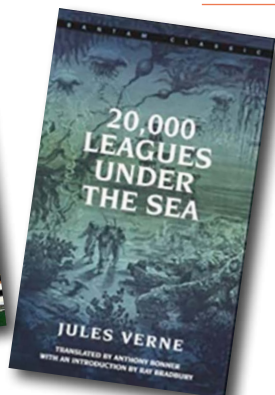
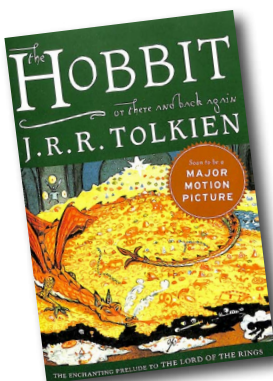
MICHAEL SCOTT

## The Alchemyst

*(The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel Book 1)*

Fifteen-year-old twins Sophie and Josh are working ordinary summer jobs when they find themselves in the middle of a centuries-old rivalry. Nicholas Flamel, bookstore owner and alchemist, and John Dee, patron, both need the Codex—one to survive and the other to destroy the world. Humanity's only hope is Sophie and Josh, who are prophesied to save the world—if they can believe they are part of one of the greatest legends of all time.

RL: 6.4 | Fantasy | Series



SHERWOOD SMITH

**Wren to the Rescue***(Wren Book 1)*

Wren has always dreamed of being a hero, but when she's called to adventure, she finds herself unprepared. Still, she has to make do with what she has, including a prince who will never be king and a wizard who is still an apprentice. Together, they must travel across mountains, escape killing spells, and win battles to save her best friend from a wicked king.

RL: 5.5 | Fantasy | Series |  
Black Representation

EMILY MARTHA SORENSEN

**The Magic or the Rulership***(The End in the Beginning Book 3)*

Tevan has a talent for magic, though he's never taken the oath for magicians. But when the newly-chosen landowner heir finds out landowners are forbidden from practicing magic, he must hide his magic to avoid the death penalty.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Series | Author describes  
herself as writing "clean" fiction

DIANE STANLEY

**The Silver Bowl***(Silver Bowl Book 1)*

Molly, unwanted at home, has grown up as a maid in the king's castle. She has managed to keep her visions secret, even though they always come true. But when she has visions of a curse threatening the prince, she must share her secret and enlist her friends' help to destroy the curse—before it destroys the prince.

RL: 4.7 | Fantasy | Trilogy

REBECCA STEAD

**When You Reach Me**

When sixth-grader Miranda receives mysterious notes instructing her to write a true story in a letter, she wants to ignore them. After all, she has no idea who is sending them or why. But when the sender proves to correctly predict the future and warns someone's life is in danger, Miranda must do all she can to stop the death before it's too late.

RL: 4.5 | Science Fiction: Time Travel | Book |  
2010 | Newbery Medal

MARY O. STEELE

**Journey Outside**

Dilar has spent his whole life floating along the same dark river with the Raft People. When he grows sick of the monotony and leaps onto a rock, he embarks on a new adventure Outside, to a world that is as terrifying as it is beautiful.

RL: 5.7 | Fantasy | Book | 1970 | Newbery Honor

KARA SWANSON

**Dust** *(Heirs of Neverland Book 1)*

Ever since Claire Kenton's twin brother was kidnapped as a child, Claire hasn't believed in magic. When her search turns her to London and Peter Pan, the girl who fears her destiny collides with the boy who doesn't want to grow up—and the truth that unfolds might just shatter everything Claire knows.

RL: 5 | Fantasy: Fairy Tale Retellings | Series |  
Christy Award 2021

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

**The Hobbit; Or, There and****Back Again** *(The Lord of the Rings Prequel)*

Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet, comfortable life in his hobbit hole. But when he finds himself called to adventure by the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves, he reluctantly joins. As they attempt to raid the dragon Smaug's treasure, Bilbo encounters a magic ring and a curious creature named Gollum.

RL: 6.6 | Epic Fantasy | Series

JULES VERNE

**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**

On a mission to destroy a ship-sinking sea monster, Professor Pierre Aronnax and his team discover the "monster" is actually an incredible submarine commanded by Captain Nemo. Taken prisoner on the invention to keep them quiet about its existence, they are taken on an underwater adventure around the world through shipwrecks, coral reefs, ice

barriers, and sea creatures as the villainous Captain Nemo seeks revenge on society.

RL: 10 | Science Fiction | Series | 1870

MARGARET WEIS AND TRACY HICKMAN

**A Rumor of Dragons***(Dragons of Autumn Twilight Volume 1, Dragonlance Chronicles Book 1)*

Adapted for young readers, the first Dragonlance novel, *Dragons of Autumn Twilight*, has been split into two volumes, *A Rumor of Dragons* and *Night of the Dragons*. The dragons have returned to Krynn, casting out the gods and all healing magic. But a group of old friends encounters a sign of hope the gods have not abandoned them and must band together to uncover the truth and protect their world from dragons.

RL: 5.7 | Epic Fantasy | Series

PATRICIA C. WREDE

**Thirteenth Child***(Frontier Magic Book 1)*

Eff is the twin of the seventh son of the seventh son, which according to legend means she will bring unparalleled bad luck and her twin should have incredible talent. But when her family moves to the frontier, near the divide that separates settlers from beasts, Eff discovers her extraordinary power to combat magical creatures.

RL: 6 | Fantasy | Trilogy

TIMOTHY ZAHN

**Dragon and Thief***(Dragonback Book 1)*

Jack Morgan, professional con artist, is wrongly accused of a crime, forcing him to hide on a remote planet. When a spaceship crashes nearby, the one survivor is a warrior named Draycos from a reptilian race who might be able to clear Jack's name. But to do so, Draycos needs a host to survive—requiring Jack and Draycos to bond physically and mentally.

RL: 5.4 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure |  
Series | Hugo Award Winner

# FANTASY FOR LIFE

Fantasy brings the laws of nature and man into focus for children. The world that surrounds us is analyzed in a deeper way through fantasy. It is not surprising that children who love fantasy also have improved working memories. In studies done with 11-month-olds the children were separated into two groups: one group was exposed to normal situations, like a ball rolling down a slide, and the other to not-normal situations, like the ball appearing to go through a wall before it comes to the end of the slide. Babies were much more focused on the unusual. The babies were then shown that the ball was squeaky. Later the children were shown the squeaky ball and some new object. Those who had seen the unusual event of the ball rolling through a wall were more focused on the ball. It was clear there was a fixation on the nature of that object and an encouragement to deeper study and wonder.

In a study by Deena Skolnick-Weisberg described in *Parenting Science*, 150 students were divided into two groups. One group had daily 20-minute sessions of storytelling and pretend play in low-fantasy situations — think *SpongeBob SquarePants*. The other group had daily sessions with high-fantasy situations — think J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. After only eight days the researchers noticed that students in the high-fantasy group actually assimilated the new vocabulary and used it in their common speech.

So, make a point to expose your children to great fantasy literature and you will see an improvement in their memory, imagination, and vocabulary. These immediate benefits reap great long-term benefits too. There can be long-term benefits to daily life such as the ability to create, communicate, and make executive decisions; to academics through improved imagination; and to faith life through focus on the other.

Now there are a few caveats as to the books. First, children should immerse themselves in a beautiful fantasy world, one where actions have consequences and there are laws and rules for that world. There can be evil things in the world but good must win in the end, as it always does. The human mind has a desire for beauty; and beauty requires order, proportion, and clarity. These must be present in a fantasy world, for they are present in our world. A world that has this will offer the child a refuge from the hardships and difficulties of this world. To live for a few moments in a world where they can see or be a hero fighting dragons, or an adventurer in a strange world, can give them tools to cope with this world.

The second caveat in the true classical tradition is that the fantasy worlds should not be a world presented on TV, but a world from a book. Why? Students who hear stories told of great fantasy worlds create the images in their own mind. These images they make and hold strengthen their imagination. This could help with working memory in the future.

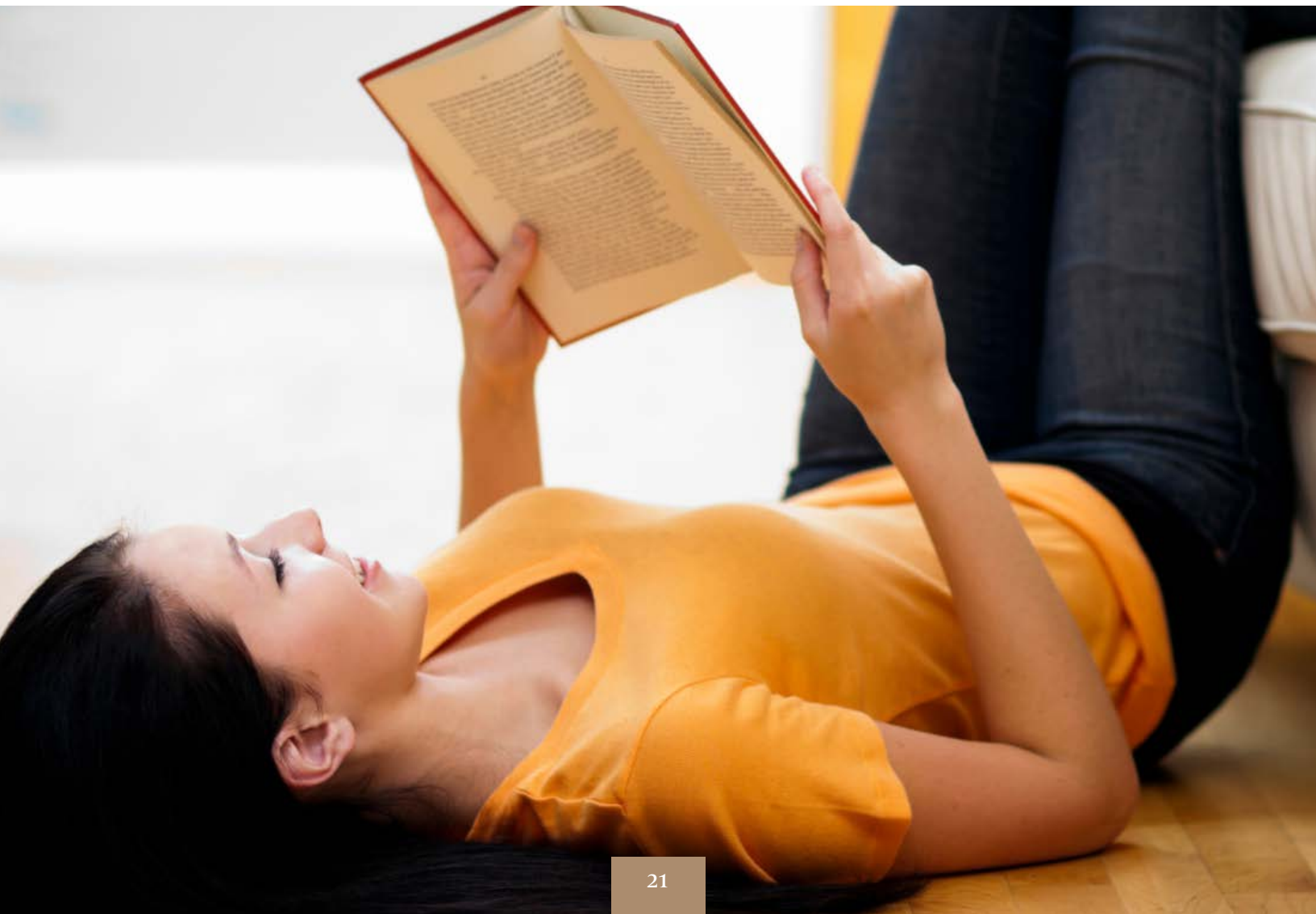
The third caveat is that children need time to play, reflect, and consider after being exposed to fantasy. In our busy world today, children don't have time for boredom and thus they don't have time for creation.

And finally, while the focus here has been on building habits with young children that will carry them through life, it's never too late to start. Reading fantasy will also benefit older children. Allowing them to play board games and other games that encourage creativity, common goals, and world building will help them in the same way!

# UNPLUGGED

Ninth Grade to Twelfth Grade

We live in a world that is full of interruptions and instant information. This has greatly reduced people's ability to focus on a task for a long period of time. Allow young adults time to read and reduce interruptions. The result is a less stressed, more focused youth! It's never too late to enter the world of fantasy and science fiction. Take a leap and give it a try!



EDWIN A. ABBOTT

## Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions

In a satirical work parodying Victorian society and examining dimensions of the physical universe, “A Square” narrates the social constructs of life in Flatland, a two-dimensional world. When a mysterious visitor, the Sphere, arrives and transports the Flatlander to the Land of Three Dimensions, his worldview is demolished. As he brings his discoveries back to Flatland, he is persecuted for spreading his newfound knowledge of a universe with different dimensions.

RL: 9.1 | Science Fiction | Novella | 1884

AUSTIN ASLAN

## The Islands at the End of the World (*Islands at the End of the World Book 1*)

On a trip to Honolulu to treat Leilani’s epilepsy, a worldwide electronics failure leaves Leilani and her father stranded. As the pair journey home to their family on the Big Island amid escalating peril, they discover her island heritage and epilepsy might hold the key to understanding the disaster.

RL: 4.1 | Science Fiction: Apocalyptic | Duology | Disability Representation

KATHLEEN BALDWIN

## A School for Unusual Girls (*Stranje House Book 1*)

After starting a fire in a science-experiment-gone-wrong, Georgiana is sent to Stranje House, a reform school in Regency England to turn girls into marriageable women—or so her parents think. When Georgiana learns the headmistress has plans involving a world of spies, diplomacy, and war, she pairs up with Lord Sebastian on a mission. As the two invent a new invisible ink, they must find a way to work side-by-side without losing their heads—or their hearts.

RL: 5.1 | Fantasy: Historical | Series

ALFRED BESTER

## The Demolished Man

In a world policed by telepaths, Ben Reich commits a crime that hasn’t been heard of in seventy years: murder. He then bribes a high-ranking telepath to help him cover his tracks. Police prefect Lincoln Powell knows Reich is guilty, but in order to capture him, he must provide admissible evidence—which does not include telepathy.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Book | 1953 | Catholic Author | Hugo Award 1953 | Member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame

ALFRED BESTER

## The Stars My Destination

Marooned in outer space after an attack on his ship, nomad Gulliver Foyle lives to obsessively pursue the crew of a rescue vessel that had intended to leave him to die.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Book | Catholic Author | Hugo Award 1953 | Member of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame

TERRI BLACKSTOCK

## Last Light (*Restoration Book 1*)

When a crisis reverts a high-tech planet to a time before electricity, the Branning family must choose between hoarding their possessions for their own survival or trusting in God to provide as they share their resources. In a time when family and community are all that remain, they must rely on each other to survive, but desperation can be dangerous—especially with a killer among them.

RL: 4.3 | Science Fiction: Apocalyptic | Series | Protestant Author

RAY BRADBURY

## Fahrenheit 451

Guy Montag is a fireman who destroys the most illegal of commodities, the printed book. But when Clarisse, a young neighbor, introduces him to a past where people lived without fear and a present with enlightening ideas from books instead of mindless television, Montag questions his job, society, and his whole world.

RL: 5.2 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | 1953

RAY BRADBURY

## The Martian Chronicles

This collection of haunting stories about humans colonizing Mars captures both beauty and horror. To escape an Earth riddled with catastrophe, humans attempt to settle on Mars. But leaving Earth doesn’t mean leaving human problems behind, as disease, prejudices, and Martians present plenty of challenges.

RL: 6.2 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Short Story Collection | 1950

D. J. BUTLER

## Abbott in Darkness

When John Abbott moves his family forty light-years from Earth for a job with a wealthy interstellar corporation, he finds evidence of theft—and worse—during his first assignment. As John tries to make a life for his family in this wilderness while avoiding corruption, he must catch the thieves and head off a war between the company and its traders before the guilty parties attack his own family.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | Disability Representation

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

## A Princess of Mars (*Barsoom Series Book 1*)

John Carter, a Civil War veteran, finds himself mysteriously transported to Mars, where he is captured and hailed as chieftain for his incredible strength due to gravity on the planet. When his captors imprison Princess Dejah, he must rescue her before she becomes slave to the leader.

RL: 9 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | 1912

ORSON SCOTT CARD

## Ender’s Game (*Ender Saga Book 1*)

Ender Wiggin is a brilliant young boy recruited by the military to train in preparation for an alien invasion. At the Battle School that orbits above Earth, Ender undergoes intense training and simulated battles. He may be just the leader Earth needs to defeat the aliens, but ultimately must confront the ethical implications of his actions.

RL: 5.5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | 1985 | Nebula Award 1985 | Hugo Award 1986

RAE CARSON

## The Girl of Fire and Thorns (*Girl of Fire and Thorns Book 1*)

Sixteen-year-old Elisa discovers her heroic destiny as the Chosen One after secretly marrying the king of a neighboring country in turmoil. But more than her husband require her help, including savage enemies and a determined revolutionary who might be winning her heart. With her life—and heart—at stake, Elisa must find the power deep within to become who everyone needs her to be.

RL: 5 | Epic Fantasy | Series

JOELLE CHARBONNEAU

## The Testing (*The Testing Book 1*)

When sixteen-year-old Cia Vale is chosen to enter The Testing, she is ecstatic for the chance to become a future United Commonwealth leader. But before she leaves, her father warns her not to trust anyone and describes his own broken memories of The Testing that prove more frightening than honorable. As she proceeds through a series of tests to prove her worth, she must decide

who she can trust as she seeks survival and faces the inevitable erasure of her memories—including her blossoming romance with Tomas and the grim realities of her society she desperately desires to change.

RL: 5.6 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Trilogy

SABRINA CHASE

## Firehearted

While her food supplies diminish, exile Ronne tes Arhi waits for the end, watching the Empire attacked by barbarian enemies and internal corruption. But when she provides shelter to a dying outcast barbarian, she witnesses his miraculous healing and discovers that the Empire's enemies have awoken a sinister magic. To combat the evil and ensure freedom for their people, the pair need to rely on their battle-tested skills—and trust in their own magic.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Book

C. J. CHERRYH

## The Faded Sun Trilogy (*The Faded Sun Books 1-3*)

The mri—a secretive, golden-skinned, golden-eyed race bound by honor and known for their soldiers of unparalleled skill—face extinction. A warrior, a priestess, and a human must journey through space and time to save the race.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Trilogy | 1978 Hugo and Nebula Award Nominee | Four-Time Hugo Award-Winning Author



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ARTHUR C. CLARKE

**2001: A Space Odyssey***(Space Odyssey Book 1)*

The spacecraft Discovery is on a voyage to the outer edge of the solar system, carrying two navigators and three frozen hibernants. Their vessel is controlled by HAL 9000, a super-computer meant to assist their journey. But the navigators soon discover HAL's intelligence rivals, and perhaps threatens, the human mind—and their very lives.

RL: 9 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | 1968

MELANIE DICKERSON

**The Golden Braid** *(The Fairy Tale Romance Series Book 6)*

Rapunzel is a skilled knife-thrower and can lull a beast to sleep, but she's afraid Mother will never allow her to learn to read or marry. When Rapunzel rescues Sir Gerek, he agrees to teach her to read to repay his debt. As she uncovers a world of secrets and treachery kept hidden for seventeen years, she must learn how to take control of her own destiny and determine who will stay faithful to a lowly peasant girl.

RL: 5.3 | Fantasy: Fairy Tale Retellings | Series | 2017 Christy Award

REGINA DOMAN

**The Shadow of the Bear***(The Fairy Tale Novels Book 1)*

In this modern retelling of the classic Brothers Grimm fairytale, Bear, a mysterious young man, arrives at Blanche and Rose Brier's home in New York City. Rose is fascinated by his knowledge of stories and songs, while Blanche is afraid of his association with drugs, murder, and a hidden treasure. But as Blanche starts to trust him, her fears prove true—and endanger their family.

RL: 5 | Fairy Tales | Series | Catholic Author

COLLEEN DRIPPE

**Gelen***(A Star Brothers Adventure Book 1)*

When Father Ruiz travels to Fen Colony on mission to convert souls, he faces a moral quandary. Between the totalitarian government, a rebel invasion, warring tribes, and the moon-worshipping semi-telepathic gelens themselves, he has his work cut out for him. As he finally makes progress, his first convert turns out to be a powerful empath and a war criminal, and his troubles escalate.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | Catholic Author

COLLEEN DRIPPE

**Godcountry***(A Star Brothers Adventure Book)*

When Eduardo Sabat, corporate slave, is accidentally freed, he travels to Quele Colony on a search and rescue mission where he once served as a professional tomb raider. But he soon discovers his ex-girlfriend is in charge of a rival expedition on the planet—and she just might be the one who murdered his wife. As their paths entwine, he must decide if he despises her or loves her—and if she is responsible for his wife's death.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | Catholic Author

COLLEEN DRIPPE

**Sunrise on the Ice Wolf**

When Helen Kley, refined product of a feminist colony, sets out to find the father she has never known, she is kidnapped and subjected to mind control compelling her to seek out a mysterious world far from her father's home. With Bis Stephen Wolfbane, a kinsman under the same mind control, she must escape the alien force possessing her to discover her true heritage and save her father's home.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | Catholic Author

COLLEEN DRIPPE

**Treelight***(A Star Brothers Adventure Book)*

Doctor Marja Sienko, a social engineer hired by the Pesc Corporation, arrives in the newly-bought Treelight Colony to drag its people into the modern world of interstellar trade. But it isn't long before she suspects she is meant to be the corporation's victim, not delegate. With the help of the Star Brothers, she must uncover the Pesc Corporation's motives to save Treelight before it is too late.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | Catholic Author

DIANE DUANE

**Doctor's Orders** *(Star Trek: The Original Series Book 50)*

When Dr. McCoy complains about the way things are run, Captain Kirk leaves him in command while he beams to Flyspeck on a routine mission. But when Kirk vanishes, the doctor learns that command isn't as easy as it looks. As he tries to locate the missing captain, he must face pressure from Starfleet, deal with Klingons claiming their own stake on Flyspeck, and defeat an alien fleet threatening them all.

RL: 7.4 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

DIANE DUANE

**Spock's World***(Star Trek: The Original Series)*

In the twenty-third century on Vulcan, the U.S.S. Enterprise is summoned from across the galaxy to bring Commander Spock home in the hour of need. As Spock, his father, and Captain Kirk struggle to preserve Vulcan's future, they uncover the planet's secrets and history stretching millions of years. Spock must find a way to reconcile his duty to Starfleet and his unbreakable connection to Vulcan to save the Federation itself from being ripped apart.

RL: 7.5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

DIANE DUANE

### The Romulan Way: Rihannsu #2 (*Star Trek: The Original Series Book 35*)

For eight years, Federation Agent Terise LoBrutto has hidden with the Romulans—cousin of the Vulcan, ally to the Klingon, and Starfleet's most treacherous enemy. When she encounters a captured Starfleet officer she must make a choice between keeping her cover and saving the life of Dr. McCoy.

RL: 8.8 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

DIANE DUANE

### The Wounded Sky (*Star Trek: The Original Series Book 13*)

The U.S.S. Enterprise is chosen to pilot test the Intergalactic Inversion Drive, an engine system that exceeds warp drive. While the Klingons try to sabotage the test, the crew faces strange symptoms, threatening time itself. Captain Kirk and his comrades must repair the fabric of the universe before time disappears forever.

RL: 7.7 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

DAVID EDDINGS

### Pawn of Prophecy (*The Belgariad Book 1*)

Garion doesn't believe in magic dooms, despite being haunted by the dark man without a shadow for years. But when the Apostate plans to awaken the evil God Torak and Garion is whisked away on a quest to stop them, he must learn about sorcery and his own destiny if he wants to save those he loves.

RL: 5.9 | Epic Fantasy | Series | 1982

SYLVIA ENGBAHL

### Enchantress from the Stars (*Elana Book 1*)

On a dangerous mission to the medieval planet Andrecia in the middle of an invasion, young Elana must help the magic-believing Andrecians without revealing her own alien powers. The plan requires the woodcutter's son, Georyn, who believes the threat beyond the forest to be a dragon and Elana to be an Enchantress from the Stars who can give him magical powers. But soon Elana discovers the role—and her feelings for Georyn—are more real than she imagined.

RL: 7.3 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | 1971 | Newbery Honor

KARINA LUMBERT FABIAN

### Discovery (*The Rescue Sisters Book 1*)

Sisters Ann, Tommie, and Rita, religious women eager to save lives as well as souls, travel on a mission to an asteroid to investigate an alien ship. While exploring the mysteries of life in the universe, they also find surprising mysteries amongst their own crew—hidden fears, desires, horrible sins, and a mission to kill. When researchers discover something terrifying about the third arm of the ship, Rita and Ann must confront their pasts to save the mission—and their crews' souls.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | Catholic Author

NANCY FARMER

### The House of the Scorpion (*The House of the Scorpion Book*)

Matt Alacron wasn't born, he was harvested. Most people fear clones like Matt—except for El Patrón, the drug-lord ruler of the country of Opium, who loves Matt as he loves himself—because they're one and the same. As Matt struggles to understand his identity, he must escape the land if he wants to survive, even if it's no guarantee of freedom.

RL: 5.1 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Duology | 2003 Newbery Honor

MICHAEL FLYNN

### Eifelheim

Tom, a contemporary historian, and his theoretical physicist girlfriend, Sharon, become obsessed with a small town in Germany that disappeared in 1349. Father Dietrich is the village priest in the year 1348, when the Black Death is raging across Europe. When Father Dietrich becomes the first contact between humanity and the alien race, Tom, Sharon, and Father Dietrich's destinies intertwine.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | Catholic Author | Hugo Award Nominee 2007 | Heinlein Award-Winning Author

ISAMU FUKUI

### Truancy

The Truancy, a rebel group of former students, seeks to take down the system ruled by the Mayor and his repressive Educators. When fifteen-year-old Tack loses a loved one in the battle between the Educators and the Truants, he joins the Truancy for vengeance. But Tack is divided between his thirst for retribution and his increasing sympathy for the Truants.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series

SHANNON HALE

### Book of a Thousand Days

Dashti, a maid, and Lady Saren, her mistress, are locked in a tower for seven years because Saren won't marry a man she despises. While Dashti works to make them comfortable in their dark prison with little food and drastic temperature changes, she's also ordered to speak to Saren's suitors—despite impersonation being a crime punishable by death. To save them both from the tower and the dangers outside, Dashti will have to play the role many times and gain the courage to believe that even a low-born maid has worth.

RL: 5.3 | Fantasy: Fairy Tale Retellings | Book

SHANNON HALE

**The Goose Girl***(Books of Bayern Book 1)*

Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee, Crown Princess of Kildenree, has spent her life listening to her aunt's stories and learning how to speak with animals, but she's always been uncomfortable speaking with people. When Ani is sent to a foreign land for marriage, she finds herself at the mercy of her lady-in-waiting, who leads a mutiny that leaves her fleeing for her life. To survive, Ani "hides" as a royal goose girl, developing her forbidden talents as she strives to find her own voice.

RL: 5.9 | Fantasy: Fairy Tale Retellings | Series

KAREN HANCOCK

**Arena**

Down-on-her-luck Callie Hayes volunteers for a psychology experiment to turn her life around but is quickly frightened by the program's secrecy. When she demands to be released, she's dropped into an alien world engulfed in a battle between good and evil. With only a few cryptic words to guide her, Callie embarks on a life-changing journey to escape the Arena—if she doesn't fall victim to its deception first.

RL: 5 | Fantasy: Dystopian | Book | Protestant Author

VICTORIA HANLEY

**The Light of the Oracle***(Healer and Seer Series Book 3)*

Bryn, the daughter of a humble stone-cutter, is shocked when the Master Priest selects her to become a student at the famous training school for future priests and priestesses. But when her gifts prove a threat to the evil within the temple, Bryn's very life is in danger. To save the world, she must battle the unknown before the powers of darkness win.

RL: 5.4 | Fantasy | Series

SHARON HINCK

**Hidden Current***(The Dancing Realms Book 1)*

When Carla, a dancer of the Order, discovers the work of the Order is built on lies, she flees with a rough-edged herder named Brantley. Pursued by soldiers, Carla journeys with Brantley through the suffering villages and discovers a truth that casts doubt on whether she can trust Brantley, despite her growing affection for him. As Carla seeks clues to her forgotten family, she must restore the dance to its true purpose in order to bring freedom and hope to her people.

RL: 5 | Fantasy | Trilogy | 2020 Christy Award

ALDOUS HUXLEY

**Brave New World**

In a dystopian future where humans are genetically engineered and psychologically manipulated for their pre-determined caste, Bernard is on the brink of exile. When he visits the Savage Reservation and returns with two residents with connections to the World State, he saves himself and earns a newfound popularity. But the new residents challenge everything he's been conditioned to believe in this brave new world.

RL: 7.5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | 1948

P. D. JAMES

**The Children of Men**

In a world where humanity is infertile and the youngest generation is now in their twenties, Oxford historian Theodore Faron is apathetic toward a future without a future, spending most of his time reminiscing. But when he is approached by Julian, a smart, attractive woman who wants his help getting an audience with his cousin, the Warden of England, his desire to live is reawakened. As he helps Julian and her group of unlikely revolutionaries, he finds they may be the key to humankind's survival.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | 1992 | Protestant Author

MARIE C. KEISER

**Heaven's Hunter**

Randall Yung, a detective for the Galactic Fleet, is good at his job—so good he's getting bored. But when Randall is assigned to track down the perpetrator of a daring attack on a Fleet warship, the case is dangerously personal. Trapped by old grudges, an outlawed organization, and a war his grandparents fought, Randall must escape his enemies without betraying all he cares about.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Book | Catholic Author

ELIZABETH KERNER

**Song in the Silence***(The Tale of Lanen Kaelar Book 1)*

Lanen Kaelar believes in dragons and has suffered her family's ridicule for it her whole life. When her father dies, she sets out in search of the great dragons of her dreams. But those with true power know the prophecies Lanen Kaelar told since before she was born and fear the destiny she may fulfill, the mysteries she may solve, and the unusual and terrifying love she may find on Dragon Isle.

RL: 6.2 | Fantasy | Trilogy

DANIEL KEYES

**Flowers for Algernon**

In diary entries, Charlie, a mentally disabled man, tells how a brain operation increases his IQ. His experience mirrors that of a lab mouse named Algernon and surpasses doctors' expectations. But when Algernon starts suddenly deteriorating, everyone wonders—will the same thing happen to Charlie?

RL: 5.8 | Science Fiction | Book | 1966 | Nebula Award for Best Novel 1966



ANDREW KLAVAN

**Mindwar** (*Mindwar Book 1*)

Ever since star quarterback Rick Dial is left paralyzed by a car accident, he has hidden himself away in his room playing video games. But then a Russian genius creates a digital reality called the Realm, from which he can disrupt American computer systems. Government agents need Rick, quick-thinking quarterback and gaming master, to stop him before he sends America into chaos.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction | Trilogy | Protestant Author

R. A. LAFFERTY

**Past Master**

In 2535 A.D., Sir Thomas More is plucked from time by the rulers of Astrobe to provide answers about the crisis in their utopian world. But little do they know they've chosen the person who most wants to destroy Astrobe's false utopia. Sir Thomas More and his motley followers must rescue this golden planet from the Programmed Persons and the soulless perfection they've engineered to save faith itself.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Book | 1968 | Catholic Author | Nebula Award Nominee for Best Novel 1968 | Hugo Award Nominee for Best Novel 1968 | World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement 1990

STEPHEN R. LAWHEAD

**Dream Thief**

Dr. Spencer Reston, a dream-research scientist on space station Gotham, wakes up each morning feeling something terrible will happen. When Spence discovers he's a vital link in a cosmic coup masterminded by the mysterious Dream Thief, all civilization hangs in the balance.

RL: 6 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Book | Protestant Author

THERESA LINDEN

**Chasing Liberty**  
(*Chasing Liberty Book 1*)

In two weeks, Liberty's vocation as a Breeder—someone who passes on their attributes to the next generation—will begin, where she is to fulfill her duty to society by contributing to the greater good. But before the day arrives, Liberty is attacked and awakens in an underground facility to a secret group that watches over Aldonia. When she discovers they've saved a man scheduled for government re-education, she believes they might be the key to escaping her undesired fate.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Trilogy | Catholic Author

ANNE MCCAFFREY

**The Ship Who Sang**  
(*Brainship Book 1*)

Helva was born human, but her brain was implanted into an intergalactic ship. Before her adventures begin, she must choose a human partner to share her journey. Helva anticipates an immortal life filled with unimaginable escapades—until she falls in love.

RL: 7.5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | 1969

PATRICIA A. MCKILLIP

**The Riddle-Master of Hed**  
(*Riddle-Master Book 1*)

Morgon, the Prince of Hed, won a game of riddles with a ghost king, earning him the hand of the ghost king's daughter. But when he sets out to marry her, Morgon encounters mysterious shape changers that force him to shift his plans and seek the High One's counsel instead. Accompanied by Deth, the High One's Harper, their journey raises questions about the three stars on Morgon's forehead and the powers that come with them.

RL: 5 | Epic Fantasy | Trilogy | 1976

JOHN MCNICHOL

**The Tripods Attack!** (*The Young Chesterton Chronicles Book 1*)

In a work reimagining G. K. Chesterton, H. G. Wells, and Fr. Brown in grimy turn-of-the-century London, sixteen-year-old Gilbert Chesterton witnesses strange lights and meteors crashing to Earth. Hired by the newspaper, Gilbert investigates if it's a natural phenomenon or the beginning of a Martian invasion. Joined by three strangers asking the same question, Gilbert's search for answers turns into the discovery of a conspiracy surrounding his parents' deaths, newfound faith in God, and a quest to save mankind.

RL: 6 | Steampunk | Duology | Catholic Author

JODI MEADOWS

**The Orphan Queen**  
(*The Orphan Queen Book 1*)

Princess Wilhelmina is determined to take back her throne from the Indigo Kingdom. When she and her friend Melanie infiltrate the palace to gain intel, their mission becomes increasingly dangerous as enemies grow suspicious of them. Wil must rely on her secret magic to save the kingdom and her rightful spot in it—if the deadly wraith it creates doesn't destroy the land first. *The plot contains violence.*

RL: 5.3 | Fantasy | Duology

WALTER M. MILLER JR

**A Canticle for Leibowitz**  
(*St. Leibowitz Book 1*)

In a world recovering from a nuclear war, scholars seeking to rediscover science visit a monastery where cloistered monks have studied and preserved the relics and writings of Saint Isaac Leibowitz. The story spans centuries and follows civilization as it rebuilds and repeats the same mistakes.

RL: 7 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series | 1959 | Catholic Author | Hugo Award 1961

“The peculiar quality of the “joy” in successful Fantasy can thus be explained as a sudden glimpse of the underlying reality or truth.” – J.R.R. Tolkein, *On Fairy Stories*

ELIZABETH MOON

**Trading in Danger***(Vatta's War Book 1)*

After adventurous Kylara Vatta is expelled from the military in disgrace, she returns home to face her family's humiliation and an aimless future. To redeem herself, she captains one of her family's transport ship on a simple assignment. But when Ky turns the easy task into a risky venture in the name of profit for her family's company, she finds herself in the middle of a colonial war, where she must rely on her military training and soldier's instincts to return safely home.

RL: 6.1 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series

GILBERT L. MORRIS

**Flight of the Eagles***(The Seven Sleepers Book 1)*

Fourteen-year-old Joshua Adams awakens from a fifty-year sleep to find he has escaped nuclear war. The genetically altered races of Earth hail his awakening as the first fulfillment of an ancient prophecy, heralding that the Seven Sleepers would unite their strength with Goel to battle the wicked priests of Sanhedrin. But the quest is dangerous, requiring Josh to survive not only the Sanhedrin's wrath but also the doubt threatening his faith in Goel, his spiritual champion.

RL: 4.7 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series | 1994 | Protestant Author

ANDRE NORTON

**The Forerunner Factor***(The Forerunner Series Books 4-5)*

Two Andre Norton Forerunner novels, *Forerunner* and *Forerunner: The Second Venture*, following the life of young alien/human hybrid Simsa, living among the ruins of the Forerunners. Through adventures to uncover her origins and attempts to escape starfaring humans and a spirit threatening to possess her, Simsa sets out on a path that promises to change galactic civilization and her own life forever.

RL: 6.5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | Grande Dame of Science Fiction and Fantasy

ANDRE NORTON

**Sargasso of Space***(Solar Queen Book 1)*

Embarking on an interstellar assignment on the cargo ship *Solar Queen*, Dane and his crew arrive at the planet Limbo to find little signs of life. Amongst kidnappings, pirate looters, and threats to their lives, the team must solve the planet's mysteries to return home.

RL: 7.2 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | 1955 | World Fantasy Lifetime Achievement Award 1998

CARAGH M. O'BRIEN

**Birthmarked***(Birthmarked Book 1)*

Sixteen-year-old Gaia Stone lives outside the walled Enclave and serves as a midwife with her mother, delivering their quota of three infants per month to enter privileged society within the walls. When her mother and father are violently arrested by those they loyally serve, Gaia must enter the Enclave and question everything she's been taught to rescue her parents.

RL: 5.4 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Trilogy

NNEDI OKORAFOR

**Binti** *(Binti Book 1)*

When Binti is accepted into Oomza University, she is honored to be the first of the Himba people to attend, but she knows it means sacrificing traveling between the stars. As she travels to the university, she must fend off the deadly Meduse, an alien race wronged by the university who seek vengeance by taking her life. Binti must rely on the gifts of her people and wisdom from the university—if she can make it there alive.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Trilogy | Black Representation | Hugo and Nebula Award Winner 2016

GEORGE ORWELL

**1984**

Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth and lives his life under the watchful eye of Big Brother. Expressing discontent with the Party is grounds for punishment, and even thinking such rebellious words is considered a thought crime. But when Winston begins expressing his thoughts in a diary and falls in love with Julia, he puts his life in great danger as he seeks freedom.

RL: 8.9 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Book | 1948

MARY E. PEARSON

**The Adoration of Jenna Fox***(Jenna Fox Chronicles Book 1)*

Jenna Fox awakens from a coma with no memory of her identity or the accident that caused the memory loss. But when memories resurface, she's left questioning if they are really her own.

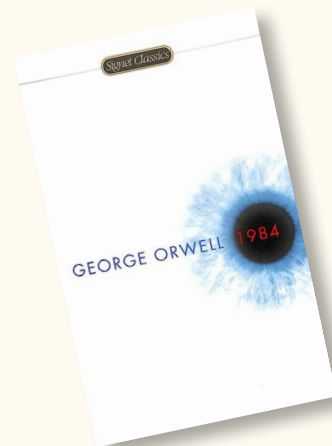
RL: 3.8 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Trilogy

SUSAN BETH PFEFFER

**Life As We Knew It***(Life As We Knew It Book 1)*

After a meteor knocks the moon closer to the earth, sixteen-year-old Miranda and her family take refuge in their sunroom. Told through journal entries, Miranda describes surviving on stockpiled food and water as the planet suffers tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic ash blocking the sun. But Miranda soon discovers her greatest challenge is learning to hold onto hope when the whole world is suffering despair.

RL: 4.7 | Science Fiction: Apocalyptic | Series



TIM POWERS

**The Anubis Gates**

When a millionaire discovers magical gates allowing for time travel, he hires Brendan Doyle, a specialist in the nineteenth-century poet William Ashbless, to provide commentary on a historic trip to the past with fellow millionaires. But when Doyle gets stuck in the past he makes a surprising discovery about the poet Ashbless he knows so well. He must rely on his knowledge of Ashbless's poems and life to escape an evil magician and return home.

RL: 5 | Fantasy: Time Travel | Book | 1983  
| Catholic Author | Two-Time Winner of the World Fantasy Award

SANDRA FERNANDEZ RHOADS

**Mortal Sight***(The Colliding Line Book 1)*

Seventeen-year-old Cera Marlowe wants a normal life, where she's not skipping town at each disturbing vision. But when a friend is mysteriously murdered, Cera is thrown into an ancient supernatural battle. As she discovers her visions have the capability of saving lives, Cera must decode messages from classic literature to protect those she loves.

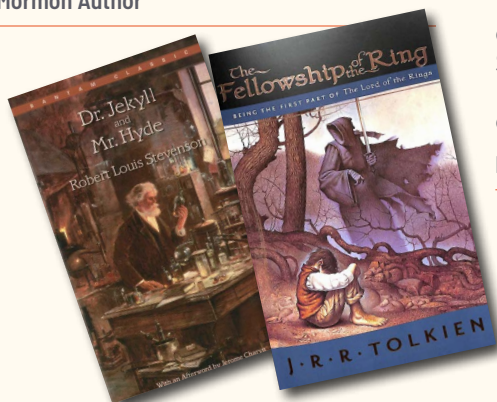
RL: 5 | Fantasy | Duology | 2021 Christy Award

BRANDON SANDERSON

**Skyward** *(Skyward Book 1)*

Spensa dreams of becoming a pilot to fight the Krells, an alien race who has sought to destroy mankind for hundreds of years, but her father's reputation as a deserter labels her unfit. When she finds an abandoned ship she is determined to make her dreams come true, but first she must persuade the machine—and its soul—to help her.

RL: 5.1 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Series | Mormon Author



BRANDON SANDERSON

**Steelheart***(The Reckoners Book 1)*

In a world tyrannized by Epics, those with extraordinary powers from the Calamity, the Reckoners seek to restore justice by targeting their weaknesses and assassinating them. But there is one Epic, Steelheart, who is believed to be invincible, the very one David has been planning to pursue since he killed his father. And David knows something no one else does—what makes Steelheart bleed.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Trilogy | Mormon Author

SHARON SHINN

**Jenna Starborn**

Jenna Starborn, a young woman who was harvested from planet Baldus's gen-tanks, is used to a life of pain and poverty. But when she journeys to the planet Fieldstar and accepts a job at Thorrastone Park, she must navigate society's expectations and choose the path of honor as she seeks the love she so desperately desires.

RL: 7.4 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Book | Based on Jane Eyre

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde**

The mild-mannered Dr. Jekyll develops a potion that unleashes the evil Mr. Hyde, his alter ego hidden inside. In a battle between the ego and the id, Jekyll must gain control of Hyde before Hyde gains control of his soul.

RL: 9.5 | Science Fiction | Book

MARY STEWART

**The Crystal Cave***(Arthurian Saga Book 1)*

Born an illegitimate child of a princess, Merlin possesses the gift of Sight. Amidst war and conquest, Merlin must embrace his role in the coming of the great King Arthur.

RL: 5.7 | Fantasy | Series | 1970 | King Arthur

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

**Fellowship of the Ring**  
**(The Lord of the Rings Book 1)**

In ancient times, Sauron forged the One Ring to rule all the other Rings of Power. But while he has gathered the Rings of Power, he is still searching for the One Ring. Frodo, a young hobbit, is entrusted to carry the ring through Middle-earth with a small fellowship of companions to the only place it can be destroyed—Mount Doom, in the middle of Sauron's realm.

RL: 6.1 | Epic Fantasy | Trilogy

CORINNA TURNER

**I Am Margaret***(I Am Margaret Book 1)*

Margaret is going to fail the Sorting, which means being recycled for parts rather than living her own life. As part of the underground network of Believers, she also faces certain death if discovered. But when she gets trapped in the Facility, all she has is her Catholic faith for hope, and she finds herself facing the worst kind of martyrdom.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Dystopian | Series | Catholic Author | Awarded the Seal of Approval from the Catholic Writers Guild, guaranteeing moral, doctrinal, and editorial quality

CORRINA TURNER

**Breach!**

Eighteen-year-old Isaiah and his brother Zechariah earn their living capturing dinosaurs. When an out-of-control Tyrannosaurus Rex breaches a tourist resort, the pair must act fast to save lives. But when a New Year's Eve misadventure threatens to cause a different kind of breach, Isaiah might not be able to save the life of someone close to him.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Futuristic | Series | Catholic Author

KATHY TYERS

**Crystal Witness**

After twenty years of suspended animation, Ming awakens without memories of why she was arrested or her life before. She serves a powerful leader in an alien world to repay her debt, where her life is threatened by two men—a hideous mutant and a secretive musician—who both want information. As she remembers more of her past life she must decide if her loyalties lie with her employer, a budding resistance movement, or somewhere else entirely.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Book | Protestant Author

KATHY TYERS

**Firebird** (*Firebird Book 1*)

Born as the third daughter in a royal family, Lady Firebird's life is expendable. And when she's chosen to lead an attack on a neighboring planet, her death is even expected. But when she's taken prisoner by the enemy and her own people seek her sacrifice, Firebird must choose between two worlds in a personal battle with eternal consequences—for her, everyone around her, and especially the man who loves her.

RL: 6.1 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Series | Protestant Author

KATHY TYERS

**One Mind's Eye**

With no memory of her past, Llyn Torfinn awakens on the planet Antar, hooked into a machine, wasting away. Still rebuilding from an alien attack, the humans of the Concord worlds prepare for another war with a more powerful enemy, and their last hope lies with Llyn. She must recover physically and mentally in a whole new world, but Llyn's greatest challenge may be to discover her own identity—before all of humankind is destroyed.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | Protestant Author

KATHY TYERS

**Shivering World**

Dr. Graysha has a genetic disorder that will lead to an early death, so when she has the opportunity to terraform the planet Goddard, where there are rumors of illegal genetic research and the average lifespan is 150 years, she leaps at the chance. But the Eugenics Board punishes genetic engineering with death, and Dr. Graysha's mother is the high commissioner. The colonists ostracize and even threaten Dr. Graysha in fear of getting caught, but Dr. Graysha needs their help—and must convince them she is trustworthy before her disorder takes her life.

RL: 5.7 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Book | 2019 Christy Award

JULES VERNE

**Journey to the Center of the Earth**

When Professor Otto Lidenbrock finds a map of volcanic tubes leading to the center of the earth, he sets off on an expedition with his nephew and a guide to explore them. Descending into a subterranean world of an underground ocean, luminous rocks, and prehistoric creatures—still alive—the trio encounter a living past that may hold the secret to human existence.

RL: 9.9 | Science Fiction | Book | 1864

WALTER WANGERIN JR.

**The Book of the Dun Cow** (*Chauntecleer the Rooster Book 1*)

In a time when the sun travels around the earth and animals can speak, Chauntecleer the Rooster is the leader of a peaceful kingdom. But the animals don't know they are the Keepers of Wyrms, an evil monster imprisoned under the earth—and Wyrms is about to escape.

RL: 5.3 | Fantasy | Series | Protestant Author

ANDY WEIR

**The Martian: Classroom Edition**

Less than a week ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars, and now he'll likely be the first to die there. After a dust storm leaves him stranded and assumed dead, he's alone with dwindling supplies, damaged machinery, and a harsh environment. With survival nearly impossible, Mark refuses to give up, instead drawing on his resourcefulness, engineering skills, and grit to sustain life in the unlikely place.

RL: 5 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure | Book | Classroom-appropriate language/Discussion questions and activities

MARGARET WEIS AND TRACY HICKMAN

**Dragon Wing** (*The Death Gate Cycle Book 1*)

In a world sundered into realms, only a few have traveled through the Death Gate and know of the existence of all four realms. In the Realm of Sky, humans, elves, and dwarves fight for control of water amidst a royal assassin, a rebellion, and an evil wizard threatening the Death Gate itself.

RL: 6.3 | Epic Fantasy | Series | 1990

H. G. WELLS

**The Invisible Man**

Griffin, a scientist, has concocted a serum to make himself invisible. He uses his invisibility to terrorize a small town as he descends into madness.

RL: 7.7 | Science Fiction | Book | 1897

H. G. WELLS

**The Time Machine**

When an English scientist invents a machine to propel himself into 800,000 A.D., he is entranced by the Eloi, a mellow race descended from humans. But then his time machine vanishes, and he discovers a second race living in deep tunnels—the sinister Morlocks. The Time Traveler must travel to the depths and face the Morlocks to return to his own time.

RL: 7.4 | Science Fiction: Time Travel | Book | 1895

H. G. WELLS

**The War of the Worlds**

When Martians land in England, spreading deadly gas and destroying buildings in three-pronged machines, humans must come to grips with the end of human civilization. Adapted into a radio drama by Orson Welles in 1938, the broadcast infamously created national panic.

RL: 9.1 | Science Fiction: Aliens | Book | 1897

ELLE KATHARINE WHITE

**Heartstone** (*Heartstone Book 1*)

They say a Rider in possession of a good blade must be in want of a monster to slay—and Merybourne Manor has an abundance of monsters. Which is why Aliza is relieved that Lord Merybourne has hired a band of Riders to hunt down the gryphons that killed her sister. But when the dragonrider Alastair's arrival leads to a romantic clash of wills and a mystery running deep into the foundations of the kingdom, Aliza must prepare for battle across kingdoms, class lines, and her own heart.

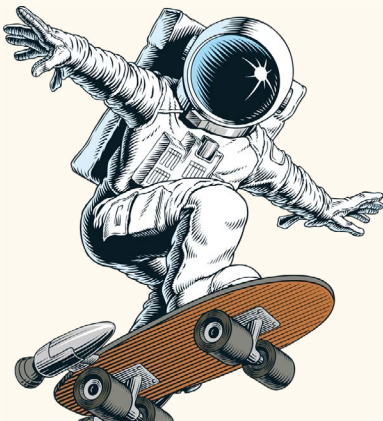
RL: 5 | Fantasy | Trilogy |  
Based on *Pride and Prejudice*

T. H. WHITE

**The Once and Future King**

A young boy called "Wart" is tutored by the magician Merlyn as he prepares for his future as King of the Britons. Once he is crowned, his reign over Camelot leads to noble quests with the knights of the Round Table and the love of a legendary queen. But King Arthur's royal life holds plenty of challenges and betrayals, including a forbidden love between his queen and Lancelot, his half-sister's wicked plots, and threats to destroy his kingdom—and end his life.

RL: 7.4 | Fantasy | Book | 1958 | King Arthur



GENE WOLFE

**The Knight** (*The Wizard Knight Book 1*)

When Able is transported from our world to a magical realm with seven levels of reality, he must retrieve the sword promised him from a dragon to become a knight and hero. But while he appears to be a man in the magical realm, inside he is still very much the boy he's always been. Able must grow up in more ways than one to survive his clashes with giants, elves, wizards, and dragons.

RL: 4.4 | Fantasy | Duology | Catholic Author |  
Nebula Award Nominee 2005 | World Fantasy  
Lifetime Achievement Award 1996 | Inducted  
into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2007

GENE WOLFE

**The Shadow of the Torturer** (*The Book of the New Sun Book 1*)

On Urth, Severian, a young apprentice in the Guild of Torturers, betrays his oath by showing mercy to his victim. Exiled, he must journey through the perilous world of the distant future.

RL: 7 | Epic Fantasy | Series | 1980 | Catholic  
Author | World Fantasy Award 1981 | British Sci-  
ence Fiction Association Award 1981 | Nebula  
Award Nominee 1981 | World Fantasy Lifetime  
Achievement Award 1996 | Inducted into the  
Science Fiction Hall of Fame in 2007

PATRICIA C. WREDE

**Mairelon the Magician** (*Mairelon Book 1*)

Kim has grown up stealing on the streets of London, disguised as a boy, so she doesn't think twice when she's offered money to break into a traveling magician's wagon. But when the magician catches her in the act and offers to make her his apprentice, Kim figures it can't be too hard to fake it—until she discovers his magic is real.

RL: 6.3 | Fantasy | Duology | 1991  
ALA Best Book for Young Adults

PATRICIA C. WREDE

AND CAROLINE STEVERMER

**Sorcery & Cecelia; or, The Enchanted Chocolate Pot** (*Cecelia and Kate Book 1*)

In 1817 England, two inseparable cousins must spend the summer apart. Cecelia and Kate keep in touch through letters as they struggle with the pressures of choosing what to wear and who to go with to their debuts. But coming out to society is only a fraction of their concern when Kate finds herself alone with a mysterious witch and learns evil forces seek to destroy a beloved wizard—and only Kate and Cecelia can stop them.

RL: 6.7 | Fantasy: Historical | Trilogy

TIMOTHY ZAHN

**Heir to the Empire** (*Star Wars: The Thrawn Trilogy Book 1*)

Five years after they destroyed the Death Star, Han and Leia are married and expecting twins and Luke is the first of the new Jedi Knights in a galaxy recovering from war. But when the last of the emperor's warlords threatens war against the New Republic, an explosive battle ensues to protect everything the Rebel Alliance fought for.

RL: 6.1 | Science Fiction: Space Adventure |  
Trilogy | Hugo Award Winner

“The presence of beings other than human which yet behave, in varying degrees, humanly: the giants and dwarfs and talking beasts. I believe these to be at least (for they may have many other sources of power and beauty) an admirable hieroglyphic which conveys psychology, types of character, more briefly than novelistic presentation and to readers whom novelistic presentation could not yet reach”

—C.S. Lewis



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