

KINSTAR RECOMMENDED READING LIST 2007

Grade 5-6

Any available unabridged edition of a title is acceptable.

Alexander, Lloyd. *The Gawgon and the Boy*. Dutton, 2001. In Depression-era Philadelphia, when eleven-year-old David is too ill to attend school, he is tutored by the unique and adventurous Aunt Annie whose teaching combined with his imagination greatly enriches his life.

Allen, Thomas B. *George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War*. National Geographic, 2004. An illustrated biography of the Revolutionary War general and first President of the United States, George Washington, focusing on his use of spies to gather intelligence that helped the colonies win the war.

Avi. *Never Mind!: A Twin Novel*. HarperCollins, 2004. Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

Balliett, Blue. *The Wright 3*. Scholastic Press, 2006. Spring semester at the Lab School in Hyde Park finds Petra and Calder drawn into another mystery when unexplainable accidents and ghostly happenings throw a spotlight on Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House, and it's up to the two junior sleuths to piece together the clues. Sequel to *Chasing Vermeer*.

Barron, T. A. *The Lost Years of Merlin*. Philomel, 1996. A young boy with no memory of his past washes ashore on the coast of Wales and finds his true name after a series of adventures. *Lost Years of Merlin Series*.

Bridges, Ruby and Lundell, Margo, ed. *Through My Eyes*. Scholastic, 1999. The author recounts the story of the integration of her school in New Orleans in 1960, when she was six year old.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. A twelve-year old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935, when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister Newbery Honor.

Codell, Esme Raji. *Sahara Special*. Hyperion, 2003. Struggling with school and her feelings since her father left, Sahara gets a fresh start with a new and unique teacher who supports her writing talents and the individuality of each of her classmates.

Coville, Bruce. *William Shakespeare's Hamlet*. Dial Books, 2004. A simplified prose retelling of Shakespeare's play about the prince of Denmark who seeks revenge for his father's murder.

Creech, Sharon. *Heartbeat*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2004. Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

D'Adamo, Francesco. *Iqbal: A Novel*. Atheneum, 2003. First published in Italian, 2001. Iqbal is sold to work in a Pakistani carpet factory, where many children are overworked and abused.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Candlewick, 2003. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. Newbery Medal

Dixon, Dougal. *The Future Is Wild*. Firefly Books, 2002. This companion book to the Animal Planet series uses a variety of scientific principles to imagine how life on planet Earth may evolve over the next 200 million years.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Giant Rat of Sumatra, or, Pirates Galore*. Greenwillow Books, 2005. A cabin boy on a pirate ship finds himself in San Diego in 1846 as war breaks out between the United States and Mexico.

Florian, Douglas. *Omnibeasts*. Harcourt, 2004. In this treasure chest of wit and charm, the author weaves information into each poem, combining fun and fact. This collection of poems and art are selected from the author's whimsical, pun-filled previous books

George, Jean Craighead. *Charlie's Raven*. Dutton Children's Books, 2004. Having heard from his Teton Sioux Indian friend that ravens can cure people, Charlie brings home a baby raven in hopes of helping his ailing grandfather, setting the stage for a learning experience that brings new life to everyone in his family.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Willow Run*. Random House, 2005. Set during World War II, eleven-year-old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, where her father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory.

Gutman, Dan. *Mickey and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure*. HarperCollins, 2003. When Joe travels back to 1944, he meets the Milwaukee Chicks, one of the only all-female professional baseball teams in the history of the game.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Just Ella*. Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fifteen-year-old Ella finds that accepting Prince Charming's proposal ensnares her in such a suffocating tangle of palace rules and royal etiquette that she plots her escape.

Hahn, Mary Dowling. *The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story*. Clarion Books, 2004. Tired of the strict set of rules imposed on them since "the bad thing happened," twelve-year-old Diana is tempted to break the mysterious rules in hopes of making friends with the new caretaker's daughter at the old Willis place.

Hale, Shannon. *The Goose Girl*. Bloomsbury, 2003. Princess Anidori, on her way to marry a prince she has never met, is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

Hannigan, Katherine. *Ida B: ...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World*. Greenwillow Books, 2004. In Wisconsin, Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Hobbs, Will. *Jackie's Wild Seattle*. HarperCollins, 2003. Fourteen-year-old Shannon and her little brother, Cody, spend the summer with their uncle, helping at a wildlife rescue center named Jackie's Wild Seattle.

Holm and Hale. *The Stink Files Dossier 101: The Postman Always Brings Mice*. HarperCollins, 2005. A dashing British feline spy is dismayed to find himself stranded in New Jersey and adopted by a typical suburban family, until he puts his skills to good use for his new human.

Horvath, Polly. *The Pepins and Their Problems*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow that creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.

Hunter, Erin. *Moonrise*. HarperCollins, 2005. As they journey home to warn their clans of the coming destruction, the six cats, guided by StarClan's prophecy, meet an unfamiliar tribe of cats with their own set of beliefs-- and their own mysterious prophecy.

Ibbotson, Eva. *Haunting of Granite Falls*. Penguin, 2005. When twelve-year-old Alex's Scottish castle of Carra is sold, dismantled, and moved to Texas, the ghosts that raised him from a child have difficulty relocating.

Jackson, Donna. M. *Hero Dogs: Courageous Canines in Action*. Little, Brown, 2003. Presents a variety of stories about working and rescue dogs, such as those involved in the work at the World Trade Center site after the disaster of September 11, 2001.

Janczko, Paul B. *World Afire*. Candlewick Press, 2004. In this novel written as a collection of eyewitness poems, the excitement and anticipation of attending the circus on July 6, 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, turns to horror when a fire engulfs the circus tent, killing nearly 180 people, mostly women and children.

Karr, Kathleen. *Exiled: Memoirs of a Camel*. Marshall Cavendish, 2004. A first-person narrative from a camel's viewpoint about being sent from Egypt to serve in the United States Camel Corps, and life on the Mojave Desert before and during the Civil War.

Kerley, Barbara. *Walt Whitman: Words for America*. Scholastic Press, 2004. A biography of the American poet whose compassion led him to nurse soldiers during the Civil War, to give voice to the nation's grief after Lincoln's assassination, and to capture the true American spirit in verse.

Konigsberg, E.L. *The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place*. Atheneum, 2004. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

Koppes, Steven N. *Killer Rocks from Outer Space: Asteroids, Comets, and Meteorites*. Lerner, 2004. Describes the role that collisions with meteors, comets, and asteroids have played in the history of Earth and other planets in the solar system and examines what is being done to protect Earth from future collisions.

Lasky, Kathryn. *The Man Who Made Time Travel*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003. Describes the need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea and the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth-century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.

Llewellyn, Claire. *Great Discoveries & Amazing Adventures*. Houghton Mifflin, 2004. An entertaining introductory look at a swath of discoveries from Tollund Man to Przewalski's horse, the source of the Nile to deep sea vents, Machu Picchu to the Vung Tau shipwreck, and at some of the people who made them.

Montgomery, Sy. *The Tarantula Scientist*. Houghton Mifflin 2004. Describes the research that Samuel Marshall and his students are doing on tarantulas, including the largest spider on earth, the Goliath bird-eating tarantula.

Morgan, Clay. *The Boy Who Spoke Dog*. Penguin, 2005. After being marooned on an island near New Zealand, Jack, an orphaned cabin boy from San Francisco, becomes allied with a group of dogs who protect the local sheep from wild dogs.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *North*. Greenwillow Books, 2004. Tired of his mother's over protectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year-old Alvin spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Saving Shiloh*. Atheneum, 1997. Marty and his family try to help Judd Travers change his mean ways, even though his neighbors continue to expect the worst of him. Mark Twain Award. Previous books in the *Shiloh* trilogy are: *Shiloh* and *Shiloh Season*.

Peck, Richard. *Fair Weather*. Dial, 2001. In 1893 thirteen-year-old Rosie and members of her family travel from their Illinois farm to Chicago to visit Aunt Euterpe and attend the World's Columbian Exposition which, along with an encounter with Buffalo Bill and Lillian Russell, turns out to be a life-changing experience for everyone.

Riordan, Rick. *The Sea of Monsters*. Hyperion, 2006. Percy is back and this time to rescue Camp Half Blood from certain disappearance by retrieving the Golden Fleece from an island in the Sea of Monsters, known today as the Bermuda Triangle. Previous book in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series: *The Lightning Thief*.

Ritter, John. *The Boy Who Saved Baseball*. Philomel, 2003. The fate of a small California town rests on the outcome of one baseball game, and Tom Gallagher hopes to lead his team to victory with the secrets of the now disgraced player, Dante Del Gato.

Roberts, Willo Davis. *Hostage*. Simon & Schuster, 2001. When eleven-year-old Kaci interrupts burglars in the process of robbing her house, she and her nosy elderly neighbor Mrs. Banducci are kidnapped and held hostage by the desperate and ruthless criminals.

Springer, Nancy. *Wild Boy: A Tale of Rowan Hood*. Penguin, 2005. Determined to avenge the death of his swineherd father at the hands of the Sheriff of Nottingham, Rook finally gets his chance when the Sheriff's son is captured by Robin Hood.

Stewart, Paul. *Beyond the Deepwoods*. Random House, 2004. Thirteen-year-old Twig, having always looked and felt different from his woodtroll family, learns that he is adopted and travels out of his Deepwoods home to find the place where he belongs.

Stone, Jeff. *Tiger*. Random, 2005. Five young warrior monk brothers survive an insurrection and must use the ancient martial arts to avenge their grandmaster. *Five Ancestors* Series: Book One.

Townley, Roderick. *The Great Good Thing*. Atheneum, 2001. Nothing ever changes inside the story book kingdom inhabited by twelve-year-old Princess Sylvie, her parents, and many other characters until Sylvie discovers that by allying herself with the Reader she can experience new adventures beyond the confines of the book. Sequel is *Into the Labyrinth: A Novel*.

Walker, Alice. *Langston Hughes, American Poet*. HarperCollins, 2002. An illustrated biography of the Harlem poet whose works gave voice to the joy and pain of the black experience in America.

White, Ruth. *Buttermilk Hill*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004. When Piper's parents divorce and gradually begin to make new lives for themselves,

she faces the difficult changes, finding solace and a means of self expression through her interest in poetry.

Wiles, Deborah. *Each Little Bird that Sings*. Harcourt, 2005. Comfort Snowberger is well acquainted with death since her family runs the funeral parlor in their small southern town, but even so the ten-year-old is unprepared for the series of heart-wrenching events that begins on the first day of Easter vacation with the sudden death of her beloved great uncle Edisto.

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