Middle School – Published in 2009/2010 and Too Good to Miss!

Adam, Paul. *Max Cassidy: Escape from Shadow Island*

Max Cassidy can escape from anything—but given the chance to finally know the truth about what has torn his family apart, escape from Shadow Island is the last thing on his mind.

Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*

After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family is forced to hire migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of these workers.

Appelt, Kathi. *The Underneath*

A calico cat, about to have kittens, hears the lonely howl of a hound deep in the bayou. The hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything but Typical*

Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a world of normal people. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. Jason loves writing and he finds that others enjoy his writing too.

Bauer, Joan. *Peeled*

Hildy Biddle dreams of being a journalist. She writes for her high school newspaper, *The Core*, and she's drawn to the town's big story—the haunted old Ludlow house. Eerie ghostly sightings at the house are making Hildy take a deeper look.

Bradford, Chris. *Young Samurai: The Way of the Warrior*

Jack Fletcher is shipwrecked off the coast of Japan with his father slaughtered by ninja pirates. Rescued by a legendary master swordsman Jacks begins training to become a samurai.
Two years after being airlifted out of war-torn Vietnam, Matt Pin is haunted: by bombs and the family he left behind. Now, inside a caring adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events force him to choose between silence and candor, blame and forgiveness, fear and freedom.

**Cooney, Caroline. If the Witness Lied**

The Fountain siblings have less than twenty-four hours to change their fate. Together, they will ask questions no one asked at the time of the tragedy. And together, they vow that this time, they will not be exploited.

**Cushman, Karen. Alchemy and Meggy Swan**

Just as her alchemist father pursues his Great Work of transforming base metal into gold, Meggy finds herself pursuing her own transformation.

**Feinstein, John. Change-Up: Mystery at the World Series**

Cub reporter Stevie Thomas has covered the Final Four, the Super Bowl, the NBA finals, and the U.S. Open in both tennis and golf—and he is only fourteen. With his partner and girlfriend, Susan Carol, the next assignment is the World Series, with the unlikely Nationals pitted against the Red Sox.

**Gaiman, Neil. The Graveyard Book 2009 Newbery Award Winner**

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a sprawling graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor of the dead.

**Gratz, Alan. The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings**

Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Through the years this family has dodged bullets on a battlefield, pitched perfect games, and dealt with the devastating loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. Nine innings and nine generations, and through it all, one thing remains true: the bonds of family are as strong as a love of the game.

**Green, Tim. Baseball Great**

Josh feels like he's starting to make it big! Then his dad pulls him off the field and signs him up with Coach Rocky Valentine's youth championship team, the Titans. He says Josh has what it takes to be a baseball great—and the Titans will help him get there.
Agents and lawyers come knocking after Troy leads his football team, the Atlanta Falcons, to the Georgia State Championship, but his life gets complicated when one of the lawyers turns out to be the father he never knew.

Hahn, Mary Downing. Closed for the Season: A Mystery Story

Arthur and Logan, set out to solve the mystery of a murder that took place some years ago in the old house Logan's family has just moved into. The boys' quest takes them to many levels of society in their small Maryland town, and eventually to a derelict amusement park that is closed for the season.

Hall, Teri. The Line

An invisible, uncrossable physical barrier encloses the Unified States. The Line is the part of the border that lopped off part of the country, dooming the inhabitants to an unknown fate when the enemy used a banned weapon. It's said that bizarre creatures and superhumans live on the other side, in Away.

Harrison, Michelle. 13 Treasures

Tanya sees evil fairies who cast spells on her, rousing her from her sleep and propelling her out of bed. At wit's end, Tanya's mother sends her away to live with her grandmother at Elvesden Manor, a secluded countryside mansion on the outskirts of a peculiar town.

Hobbs, Valerie. The Last Best Days of Summer

For twelve-year-old Lucy Crandall, the last week of August is the most perfect time in the world. It's the week she gets to spend with Grams at the lake house, canoeing, baking cookies. But this summer, Grams doesn't seem to be exactly the person she once was. Lucy wonders will things ever be the same?

Holmes, Sara Lewis. Operation Yes

No one in her sixth-grade class knows quite what to make of Ms. Loupe, with her short hair, her taped square "stage" on the floor, and the interest in improvisational theatre. After all, their school is on an Air Force base--a place that values discipline more than improvisation.

Kelly, Jacqueline. The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

The summer of 1899 is hot in Calpurnia's sleepy Texas town, and there aren't a lot of good ways to stay cool. As Callie explores the natural world around her, she develops a close relationship
with her grandfather, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, and learns just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.

Korman, Gordon. *Pop*

When Marcus moves to a new town he meets the best football player he’s ever seen. When he finds out that Charlie is actually Charlie Popovich, one of the best ever NFL linebackers he also realizes later that there is a secret about Charlie that his family is desperate to hide.

Korman, Gordon. *Swindle*

After a mean collector named Swindle cons him out of his most valuable baseball card, Griffin Bing must put together a band of misfits to break into Swindle’s compound and recapture the card.

Korman, Gordon. *Zoobreak*

When Griffin Bing’s class goes to a floating zoo, they don’t expect to see animals being treated so badly. They don’t expect to find Cleo, Dog Whisperer Savannah’s pet monkey who’s been missing for weeks. And they really don’t expect to have to hide the animals once they’ve rescued them!

Levine, Kristin. *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*

Harry “Dit” Sims and Emma Walker are the unlikeliest of friends. Emma, the educated twelve-year-old daughter of Moundville’s new postmaster, is all wrong as far as Dit’s concerned. Dit was told the new postmaster would have a boy his same age, not a girl.

Lupica, Mike. *The Batboy*

It is every baseball kid’s dream summer job: batboy for your hometown Major League team. Yet for fourteen year-old Brian, the job means more than just the chance to hang around his idols. Baseball was the job his father loved too and this job might just bring him closer to his dad.

Paulsen, Gary. *Notes from the Dog*

Johanna moves in next door to Finn right as summer is starting. Finn is a loner but he gets attached to Johanna as she is dealing with breast cancer. When she hires Finn to create a garden, his gardening ideas backfire comically. But Johanna and the garden help Finn discover his talents for connecting with people.
Paulsen, Gary. *Woods Runner*

Samuel, 13, spends his days in the forest, hunting for food for his family. He has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. However, life changes when his parents are captured. An adventure story set during the American Revolution, Samuel must rescue his parents from a British prison.

Prelter, James. *Bystander: A Novel*

When new student Eric refuses to play lapdog to the school bully he becomes the target. He knows there is no easy answer and that going to adults does not always solve the problem. As he wrestles with his conscience, Eric is befriended by Mary, a classmate making her own stand against malicious teasing.

Riordan, Rick. *The Last Olympian (Percy Jackson & the Olympians, book five)*

All year the half-bloods have been preparing for battle against the Titans, knowing the odds of a victory are grim. Kronos’s army is stronger than ever, and with every god and half-blood he recruits, the evil Titan’s power only grows.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *The Dreamer*

From the time he is a young boy, Neftalí hears the call of a mysterious voice. Even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself, Neftalí knows he cannot ignore the call.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me 2010 Newbery Award Winner*

By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes and each message brings her closer to believing that only she can prevent a tragic death. Until the final note makes her think she’s too late.

Williams, Suzanne Morgan. *Bull Rider*

Cam O’Mara, grandson and younger brother of bull-riding champions, is not interested in partaking in the family sport. Cam is a skateboarder, and perfecting his tricks—frontside flips, 360s—means everything until his older brother, Ben, comes home from Iraq, paralyzed from a brain injury.

Yohalem, Eve. *Escape Under the Forever Sky: A Novel*

Lucy’s mother is the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia and she keeps her locked up inside the ambassador’s residence. All Lucy can do is read about the exotic and exciting world that lies...
beyond the compound walls. One day Lucy sneaks off for some fun. But Lucy gets kidnapped! Now she only has herself to rely upon, and her own courage to escape.

YA – Published in 2009/2010 and Too Good to Miss!

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. Chains**

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel.

**Anderson, Laurie Halse. Wintergirls**

Lia and Cassie were best friends, wintergirls frozen in matchstick bodies. But now Cassie is dead. Lia’s mother is busy saving other people’s lives. Her father is away on business. Her stepmother is clueless. And the voice inside Lia’s head keeps telling her to remain in control, stay strong, lose more, weigh less.

**Bodeen, S.A. The Compound**

Eli, the 15-year-old son of a billionaire techno-preneur, has spent the last six years with his family in the massive underground shelter his father has built, knowing that nuclear war has destroyed the world he knows-and killed his grandmother and his twin brother, who couldn’t reach the compound in time.

**Collins, Suzanne. The Hunger Games, Catching Fire and Mockingjay**

**Hunger Games:**Sixteen-year-old Katniss is smart, athletic, and fast. She can take down a rabbit with a bow and arrow, hitting it straight through the eye. Will these skills be enough to survive the Hunger Games?

**Catching Fire:**Katniss and Peeta win the Hunger Games and to their horror, they are the faces of rebellion. The Capitol is angry. The Capitol wants revenge.

**Mockingjay:** Against all odds, Katniss Everdeen has survived the Hunger Games twice. But now that she’s made it out of the bloody arena alive, she’s still not safe. Who does the Capitol think should pay for the unrest? Katniss. And what’s worse, President Snow has made it clear that no one else is safe either.

**Coy, John. Box Out**
Sophomore Liam Bergstrom just joined the varsity basketball team. It's the chance Liam's been waiting for, but the other guys know what the Coach expects, and they're willing to do things his way, no matter what. Liam questions the team's practice of praying and becomes the odd man out. Now Liam has to find the guts to stand up for what he believes in—and take his game to a whole new level.

**Edwardson, Debby. *Blessings Bead***

Nutaaq and her older sister, Aaluk, are on a great journey, sailing from a small island off the coast of Alaska to the annual trade fair and 70 years later her granddaughter Blessing is on her own journey, running from the wreckage of her life in Anchorage to live in a remote Arctic village with a grandmother she barely remembers.

**Flinn, Alex. *A Kiss in Time***

This clever and humorous retelling of "Sleeping Beauty" follows an aimless American boy who awakens a princess who has been slumbering for 300 years. Jack is on a European tour mandated by his parents ("What they don't tell you about Europe is how completely lame it is") when he breaks an ancient curse by kissing the slumbering Princess Talia.

**Heligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith***

Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, his revolutionary tract on evolution and the fundamental ideas involved, in 1859. One hundred and fifty years later, the theory of evolution continues to cause tension between scientific and religious communities. But did you know this debate raged within Darwin himself? Learn about the man behind the theory in an exploration of history, science, and religion.

**Johnson, Louanne. *Muchaco***

Eddie Corazon is angry. He’s also very smart. But he’s working pretty hard at being a juvenile delinquent. He blows off school, even though he’s a secret reader. He hangs with his cousins, who will always back him up—when they aren’t in jail.

**Korman, Gordon. *The Juvie Three***

Three boys are serving time in juvenile detention centers until they get a second chance at life in the form of Douglas Healy. A former juvenile delinquent himself, Healy is running an experimental halfway house in New York City where he wants to make a difference in the lives of kids like Gecko, Terence, and Arjay.

**Lynch, Janet Nichols. *Messed Up***

Fifteen-year-old R. D. has been held back in school for skipping out or being on suspension, or maybe just for being Mexican-American, but, at heart R. D. is a good kid. Then, as if he hasn't
had enough tough breaks, R. D.'s grandmother takes off with a new boyfriend and Earl unexpectedly dies.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*

For thirteen-year-old Sam it’s not easy being the son of known civil rights activist Roland Childs. Especially when his older brother (and best friend), Stick, begins to drift away from him for no apparent reason. And then it happens: Sam finds something that changes everything forever.

Meminger, Neesha. *Shine, Coconut Moon*

Seventeen-year-old Samar — a.k.a. Sam — has never known much about her Indian heritage. Her mom has deliberately kept Sam away from her old-fashioned family. But things change after 9/11. A man in a turban shows up at Sam's house, and he turns out to be her uncle. He wants to reconcile the family and teach Sam about her Sikh heritage.

Perkins, Mitali. *Secret Keeper*

When her father loses his job and leaves India to look for work in America, Asha Gupta, her older sister, Reet, and their mother must wait with Baba’s brother and his family, as well as their grandmother, in Calcutta.

Smithson, Ryan. *Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-year-old GI*

Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserve when he was seventeen. Two years later, he was deployed to Iraq as an Army engineer. In this extraordinary and harrowing memoir, readers march along one GI's tour of duty. It will change the way you feel about what it means to be an American.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *After Ever After*

Jeffrey had cancer as a child and now as a teenager he’s in remission, but he still feels fragile. His parents still worry about him. Jeffrey feels that leukemia treatment left him with a limp and a brain that is “a little scrambled up.” His older brother, Steven took off to Africa to be in a drumming circle and he finds himself angry at him for leaving him and trying to find himself.

Stork, Francisco X. *Marcello in the Real World*

Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear--part of the autism-like impairment no doctor has been able to identify--and he's always attended a special school where his differences have been protected. But the summer after his junior year, his father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience "the real world."

Testa, Dom. *The Comet's Curse- Galahad Series #1*
In this gripping start to a six-book epic young adult science fiction adventure by popular Colorado radio host Dom Testa, the teenage crew of the starship Galahad, led by 16-year-old Triana Martell, must find a new home for humanity among the stars after a strange meteorite gives all persons over the age of eighteen a strange sickness that could also be considered a death sentence.

**Westerfeld, Scott. Leviathan**

In 1914, war is imminent, upon the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife. The Germans and their allies, known as "Clankers," have perfected super-mechanized craft of war. The British, or "Darwinists," rely on bioengineering: aerial whales, souped-up tiger draft beasts.

**Williams, Carol Lynch. The Chosen One**

13-year-old Kyra rebels against her close-knit, cult-like polygamist community when she is ordered to marry her 60-year-old uncle, who already has six wives. Kyra just wants to be a normal girl and loves to read books. The community becomes very strict when she tries to break free from their hold.