

2013
Oregon Battle of the Books
Grades 6-8
Annotated Booklist



These titles are selected with a wide range of reading levels and maturity in mind. You may feel that the content and/or theme of one or two of these titles is inappropriate for your child. The OBOB committee recommends that you read and discuss these books with your child. A book that stretches a child's thinking is a great opportunity to discuss world events and your family's values.

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko (2004).

AR 3.5, 600L, 240 pages.

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.

Also Known as Harper by Ann Haywood Leal (2009).

AR 5.1, 800L, 272 pages.

Writing poetry helps fifth-grader Harper cope with her father's absence, being evicted, and having to skip school to care for her brother while their mother works, and things look even brighter after she befriends a mute girl and a kindly disabled woman.

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (2001).

AR 5.0, 600L, 304 pages.

Twelve-year-old Artemis Fowl is a brilliant criminal mastermind, but even he does not know what he has taken on when he kidnaps a fairy, Captain Holly Short of the LEPrecon Unit. These fairies are armed and they are dangerous. Book #1

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading by Tommy Greenwald (2011).

AR 5.4, 830L, 240 pages.

Middle schooler Charlie Joe is proud of his success at avoiding reading, but eventually his schemes go too far.

Claudette Colvin, Twice Toward Justice by Phillip Hoose (2009).

AR 6.8, 1000L, 160 pages.

This book presents an account of fifteen-year-old Claudette Colvin, an African American girl who refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, nine months before Rosa Parks did the same thing.

Fever Crumb by Philip Reeve (2010)..

AR 6.7, Lexile unlisted, 336 pages.

Foundling Fever Crumb has been raised as an Engineer, but at age fourteen, she leaves her sheltered world and begins to learn startling truths about her past while facing danger in the present. Book #1

The Girl Who Could Fly by Victoria Forester (2008).

AR 6.0, 920L, 336 pages

Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students.

Incarceron by Catherine Fisher (2010).

AR 4.7, 600L, 442 pages.

To free herself from an upcoming arranged marriage, Claudia, the daughter of the Warden of Incarceron, a futuristic prison with a mind of its own, decides to help a young prisoner escape.

The Lab by Jack Heath (2008).

AR 5.6, 790L, 320 pages.

In a world dominated by an evil corporation, an organization called the Deck in which the staff is named after suits such as Hearts and Diamonds, deals out justice while Six of Hearts, their best operative, does his work without killing anybody.

The Red Umbrella by Christina Gonzalez (2010).

AR 3.8, no Lexile listed, 288 pages.

In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, 14-year-old Lucia and her 7-year-old brother are sent to the United States when their parents, who are not in favor of the new regime, fear the children will be taken away from them as others have been.

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman (1997).

AR 4.3, 710L, 112 pages

One by one, a number of people of varying ages and backgrounds transform a trash filled inner-city lot into a productive and beautiful garden.

A Tale Dark & Grimm by Gidwitz, Adam (2010).

AR 4.6, 690L, 192 pages.

This book follows Hansel and Gretel as they walk out of their own story and into eight more tales, encountering wicked creatures such as witches, as well as kindly strangers and other helpful folk. The plot contains violence.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor (2006).

AR 4.3, 680L, 320 pages.

Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football-hero brother, fights for his right to play soccer despite his near-blindness.

Three Days by Donna Jo Napoli (2001).

AR 3.9, 490L, 160 pages.

When her father suddenly dies while on a business trip, leaving her alone on an Italian highway, Jackie worries what will happen when she is picked up by two men with unknown motives.

Under the Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury (1994).

AR 4.0, 640L, 256 pages.

Tomikazu Nakaji's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a local bully until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle (1962).

AR 4.7, 710L, 205 pages.

Meg Murry and her family receive a surprise visit from an unearthly stranger out of another dimension in time.