

2013
Oregon Battle of the Books
Grades 9-12
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.

Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys (2011).

AR 3.6, 490L, 352 pages.

In 1941, 15-year-old Lina and her family are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards. While fighting for her life, Lina vows to honor her family by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. The plot contains graphic violence.

The Complete Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (2007).

AR unavailable, Lexile unavailable, 352 pages.

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming—both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien (1966).

AR 6.6, 1000L, 320 pages.

This stirring adventure is a fantasy that introduces the far-wandering hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

Hold Me Closer, Necromancer by Lish McBride (2010).

AR 4.6, 650L, 368 pages.

Sam, a college dropout, discovers that he is a necromancer, part of a world of harbingers, werewolves, satyrs, and a necromancer who sees Sam as a threat to his lucrative business.

I am the Messenger by Markus Zusak (2005).

AR 3.9, 640L, 368 pages.

After capturing a bank robber, nineteen-year-old cab driver Ed Kennedy begins receiving mysterious messages that direct him to addresses where people need help, and he begins getting over his lifelong feeling of worthlessness.

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X. Stork (2009).

AR 4.6, 700L, 320 pages.

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm.

Night Hoops by Carl Deuker (2000).

AR 4.5, 630L, 224 pages.

While trying to prove that he is good enough to play on his high school's varsity basketball team, Nick must also deal with his parents' divorce and the erratic behavior of a troubled classmate who lives across the street.

Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd (2002).

AR 5.7, 840L, 320 pages.

Fourteen-year-old Lily and her companion, Rosaleen, an African-American woman who has cared for Lily since her mother's death, flee their home after Rosaleen is victimized by racist police officers, and find a safe haven in Tiburon, South Carolina.

Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi (2010).

AR 4.4, 690L, 336 pages.

In a futuristic world, teenaged Nailer scavenges copper wiring from grounded oil tankers for a living, but when he finds a beached clipper ship with a girl in the wreckage, he has a decision to make. The plot contains profanity and violence.

The Six Rules of Maybe by Deb Caletti (2010).

AR 5.0, 820L, 336 pages.

Scarlet, an introverted high-school junior surrounded by outcasts who find her a good listener, learns to break old patterns and reach for hope when her pregnant sister moves home with her new husband, with whom Scarlet feels an instant connection.

Trickster's Choice by Tamora Pierce (2003).

AR 5.8, 790L, 448 pages.

Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman (2007).

AR 5.2, 740L, 352 pages.

In a future world where those between the ages of thirteen and eighteen can have their lives "unwound" and their body parts harvested for use by others, three teens go to extreme lengths to uphold their beliefs and, perhaps, save their own lives.