

# 2013-2014 Oregon Battle of the Books

## Grades 6-8 Annotated Booklist

***Bigger than a Breadbox* by Laurel Snyder (2011)    Magical Realism    680L, 223 pages**

When her parents' marriage falls apart, Rebecca is whisked off to her grandmother's house and a new school. She stumbles upon a magic breadbox that can give her anything she wishes for, as long as it fits inside. But she soon finds that even small wishes can cause big trouble.

***Magyk* by Angie Sage (2005)    Fantasy    640L, 564 pages**

After learning that she is the Princess, Jenna is whisked from her home and the people she had believed were her family. Installed in the castle, she meets a young guard known only as Boy 412 who also has a complicated and shadowy past.

***Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* by James Patterson (2011)**

**Humor    700L, 281 pages**

When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to make school more fun by making a game of breaking every rule in the school's code of conduct.

***Million Dollar Throw* by Mike Lupica (2009)    Sports    960L, 244 pages**

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, and Nate is frantic because his best friend Abby is going blind. When he gets a chance to win a million dollars by completing a pass during the halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

***Milo: Sticky Notes & Brain Freeze* by Alan Silberberg (2010)**

**Realistic Fiction    1180L, 275 pages**

A lot of things annoy 13-year-old geek Milo Cruikshank, but it is the death of his mother that has really sent his life into a tailspin. Nothing feels right as he copes with thwarted love, a new home, and a family forever changed by loss.

***Mostly True Story of Jack* by Kelly Reagan Barnhill (2011)**

**Magical Realism    740L, 323 pages**

When Jack is sent to Hazelwood, Iowa, to live with his strange aunt and uncle, he expects a summer of boredom. Little does he know that the people of Hazelwood have been waiting for him for quite a long time.

***Night of the Howling Dogs* by Graham Salisbury (2007)**

**Survival    530L, 191 pages**

In 1975, 11 Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

***Notorious Benedict Arnold* by Steve Sheinkin (2010)**

**Biography**                      **990L, 337 pages**

An introduction to the life of Benedict Arnold that highlights not only the traitorous actions that made him legendary, but also his heroic involvement in the American Revolution.

***Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt (2011)**

**Realistic Fiction**                      **850L, 360 pages**

Everything in Doug Swieteck's life is pretty terrible until he finds an ally in Lil Spicer. Together, they find a safe haven in the local library, inspiration in learning about the plates of John James Audubon's birds, and a hilarious adventure on a Broadway stage.

***Operation Redwood* by S. Terrell French (2009)**

**Realistic Fiction**                      **700L, 353 pages**

In northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends old and new fight to save a grove of redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down.

***Second Fiddle* by Rosanne Perry (2011)**

**Historical Fiction**                      **770L, 233 pages**

Shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall, 13-year-old Jody and her friends—children of American military personnel—save a badly beaten Russian soldier from drowning. They put into motion a chain of events that will take them from Berlin to Paris and straight into danger.

***Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli (2000)**

**Magical Realism**                      **590L, 186 pages**

In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity, and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.

***Timeriders* by Alex Scarrow (2010)**

**Science Fiction**                      **820L, 405 pages**

Rescued from imminent death, teens Maddy, Liam, and Sal join forces in 2001 Manhattan to correct changes in history made by other time travelers, using a "time bubble" surrounding the attack on the Twin Towers to hide their journeys.

***The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi (1990)**

**Historical Fiction**                      **740L, 215 pages**

As the only passenger, and the only female, on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, 13-year-old Charlotte finds herself caught between a murderous captain and a mutinous crew.

***Uglies* by Scott Westerfield (2005)**

**Dystopian Fiction**                      **770L, 425 pages**

Just before their 16 birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.

***Wildwood* by Colin Meloy (2011)**

**Fantasy**                                      **900L, 541 pages**

When her baby brother is kidnapped by crows, seventh-grader Prue McKeel ventures into the forbidden Impassable Wilderness—a dangerous and magical forest in the middle of Portland, Oregon—and soon finds herself involved in a war among the various inhabitants.

# 2013-2014 Oregon Battle of the Books

## Grades 9-12 Annotated Booklist

***Grave Mercy* by Robin LaFevers (2012)**                      **Fantasy**                      **850L, 549 pages**

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century kingdom of Brittany, 17-year-old Ismae escapes from the brutality of an arranged marriage into the sanctuary of the convent of St. Mortain, where she learns that the god of Death has blessed her with dangerous gifts—and a violent destiny.

***Rot & Ruin* by Jonathan Maberry (2011)**                      **Dystopian Fiction**                      **780HL, 458 pages**

In a post-apocalyptic world where fences and border patrols guard the few people left from the zombies that have overtaken civilization, 15-year-old Benny Imura is finally convinced that he must follow in his older brother's footsteps and become a bounty hunter.

***Daughter of Smoke and Bone* by Laini Taylor (2011)**

**Fantasy**                      **850L, 418 pages**

Seventeen-year-old Karou, a lovely, enigmatic art student in a Prague boarding school, carries a sketchbook of hideous, frightening monsters--the chimaerae who form the only family she has ever known.

***Copper Sun* by Sharon M. Draper (2006)**                      **Historical Fiction**                      **820L, 302 pages**

Two 15-year-old girls—one a slave and the other an indentured servant—escape their Carolina plantation and try to make their way to Fort Moses, Florida, a Spanish colony that gives sanctuary to slaves.

***The Pregnancy Project* by Gaby Rodriguez (2012)**                      **Memoir**                      **970L, 218 pages**

The true story of a high school senior who fakes a pregnancy as part of a senior project. The results rocked her community and made international headlines.

***Winterdance* by Gary Paulsen (1995)**                      **Memoir**                      **1140L, 256 pages**

A first-person account of the author's ambitious quest to train a team of dogs and run the Iditarod, in spite of snowstorms, frostbite, moose attacks, sleeplessness, and hallucinations.

***The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green (2012)**                      **Coming of Age**                      **850L, 322 pages**

Cancer patients Hazel Grace Lancaster and Augustus Waters bond over mocking their cancer support group, then team up for an irreverent ride through cancer treatment and recovering and seeking out the beauty in the darkest of moments.

***Dairy Queen* by Catherine Murdock (2006)**                      **Realistic Fiction**                      **990L, 288 pages**

D.J. Schwenk is basically running the family farm because her family is basically falling apart. Then, she finds herself training the quarterback for her school's rival football team and her best friend is acting weird. It sure seems like someone should deal with all these problems, but D.J. is no good at talking things out or talking at all.

***Dirty Little Secrets* by Cynthia Jaynes Omololu (2010)**

**Realistic Fiction      890L, 224 pages**

When her unstable mother dies unexpectedly, 16-year-old Lucy must take control and find a way to keep the long-held secret of her mother's compulsive hoarding.

***Everybody Sees Ants* by A.S. King (2011)**

**Realistic Fiction      HL710L, 282 pages**

Exhausted by relentless bullying, Lucky Linderman escapes in his dreams to the war-ridden jungles of Laos, inventing tales of fighting alongside his grandfather during the Vietnam War. How long can he hide in his dreams before he has to face reality?

***Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick* by Joe Schreiber (2011)**

**Action      800L, 190 pages**

Perry is livid when he gets forced into taking his family's socially challenged exchange student to the prom. But the geek turns out to be a trained assassin and Perry is in for a wild, wild ride.

***Every Day* by David Levithan (2012)**

**Science Fiction      HL650L, 325 pages**

A has no body to call home. Instead, A wakes up every morning in a different body, briefly inhabiting another person's life. At 16, however, A falls in love. Suddenly, it is worth risking everything to be with Rhiannon again - even the strange truth of this multiple life.