

Wonder

By R.J. Palacio

315 pages

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Ivy and Bean

By Annie Barrows

120 pages

When seven-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.

Ungifted

By Gordon Korman

280 pages

Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

Extra Credit

By Andrew Clements

183 pages

As letters flow back and forth--between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides--sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and

eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

Freckle Juice

By Judy Blume

47 pages

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents.

The Penderwicks

By Jeanne Birdsall

262 pages

While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four lovable sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.

Same Sun Here

By Silas House

297 pages

A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

Small as an Elephant

By Jennifer Jacobson

275 pages

Jack's mom is gone, leaving him all alone on a campsite in Maine. Can he

find his way back to Boston before the authorities realize what happened?

My Life as a Book

By Janet Tashjian

211 pages

Dubbed a "reluctant reader" by his teacher, twelve-year-old Derek spends summer vacation learning important lessons even though he does not complete his summer reading list.

Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf

By Jennifer Holm

128 pages

Told entirely through notes, grocery receipts, and a vast array of other items, this story follows Ginny as she accidentally dyes her hair pink, throws live frogs in class, and loses the lead role in ballet to her ex-best friend.

Harriet the Spy

By Louise Fitzhugh

300 pages

Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge.

Twerp

By Mark Goldblatt

275 pages

In Queens, New York, in 1969, twelve-year-old Julian Twerski writes a journal for his English teacher in which he explores his friendships and how they are affected by girls, a new student

who may be as fast as Julian, and especially an incident of bullying.

Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Not Reading

By Tommy Greenwald

220 pages

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

Rules

By Cynthia Lord

200 pages

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Clementine

By Sara Pennypacker

134 pages

While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor Margaret, eight-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles while also helping her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building.

Belly Up

By Stuart Gibbs

294 pages

Twelve-year-old Teddy investigates when a popular Texas zoo's star attraction--Henry the hippopotamus--is murdered.

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom

By Louis Sachar

195 pages

An unmanageable, but lovable, eleven-year-old misfit learns to believe in himself when he gets to know the new school counselor, who is a sort of misfit, too.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

By Tom Angleberger

141 pages

Sixth-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.

Five Little Peppers and How They Grew

By Margaret Sidney

410 pages

A fatherless family, happy in spite of its impoverished condition, is befriended by a very rich gentleman.

Eggs

By Jerry Spinelli

220 pages

Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

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