

Awkward

by Svetlana Chmakova Contemporary Graphic
After shunning Jaime, the school nerd, on her first day at a new middle school, Penelope Torres tries to blend in with her new friends in the art club, until the art club goes to war with the science club, of which Jaime is a member. Gr. 5 and up

The Big Dark

by Rodman Philbrick Sci-fi/adventure
When a strange weather event knocks out every source of power on New Year's Eve, the world is plunged into chaos. As his hometown of Harmony, N.H. struggles to maintain order and civilization, young Charlie Cobb sets out on a dangerous journey through the snow to find medicine for his diabetic mother. Gr. 5 and up

The Blackthorn Key

by Kevin Sands Historical Fiction
In 1665 London, fourteen-year-old Christopher Rowe, apprentice to an apothecary, and his best friend, Tom, try to uncover the truth behind a mysterious cult, following a trail of puzzles, codes, pranks, and danger toward an unearthly secret with the power to tear the world apart. Gr. 5 and up

Castle Hangnail

by Ursula Vernon Fantasy
When little twelve-year-old Molly arrives at Castle Hangnail to fill the vacancy for a wicked witch, the minions who dwell there have no choice but to give her the job. At first it seems she'll be able to keep the castle open, but Molly has quite a few secrets that could cause trouble. Gr. 4 and up

The Doublecross

by Jackson Pearce Contemporary/adventure
Overweight and non-athletic, twelve-year-old Hale may have been born and raised to be a spy for the Sub Rosa Society but it seems he is unlikely to become a Field Agent until his parents are captured by the evil League and Hale sets out on a solo mission to save them. Gr. 5

Escape From Baxters' Barn

by Rebecca Bond Animal
When Burdock, a young barn cat, sneaks into the house to get warm, he hears that the farmer, Dewey Baxter, has terrible plans that'll endanger all the animals, and he leads them in an attempt to escape before it's too late. Gr. 4 and 5

The Fog Diver

by Joel Ross Sci-fi/adventure
Many years in the future, humanity clings to cities on the highest mountain peaks above the deadly Fog, and airships transport the pirates of the skies. Daring 13-year-old teth-erboy Chess and his salvage crew must face the dark plans of Lord Kodoc and work to save their beloved Mrs. E. Gr. 5 and up

Lost in the Sun

by Lisa Graff Contemporary
As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on. Gr. 5 and up

A Night Divided

by Jennifer Nielsen Historical
Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz are trapped on the eastern side of the Berlin Wall, where they were living when it went up---while her father, and her other brother Dominic are in the West. Four years later, now twelve, Gerta sees her father on a viewing platform on the western side and realizes he wants her to risk her life trying to tunnel to freedom. Gr. 6

Nightbird

by Alice Hoffman Magical Realism
Twig lives in Sidwell, where people whisper that fairy tales are real. After all, her town is rumored to hide a monster. And two hundred years ago, a witch placed a curse on Twig's family that was meant to last forever. But this summer, everything will change --it's time to break the spell. Gr. 5 and up

Nooks & Crannies

by Jessica Lawson Mystery
Eleven-year-old Tabitha Crum, whose parents were about to abandon her, is invited to the country estate of a wealthy countess along with five other children and told that one of them will become her heir. Then the children begin disappearing, one by one. So Tabitha takes a cue from her favorite detective novels and tries to solve the case and rescue the other children...who just might be her first real friends. Gr. 5 and up

Pack of Dorks

by Beth Vrabel Realistic Fiction
Overnight, Lucy has gone from being a popular kid to being a social outcast, and from being an only child to being the big sister to a Down's Syndrome baby. While working on a school project about wolves with another "dork" classmate, Lucy connects what she learns about wolf pack behavior with

the social life at school. Is it possible to create a pack of your own---even if it is a "pack of dorks"? Gr. 4 and up

Pax

by Sara Pennypacker Realistic Fiction
Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, Peter's dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. Now far away, at his grandfather's house, Peter knows he never should have obeyed his father. He strikes out on his own to find his fox, despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own. . . Gr. 5 and up

Pugs of the Frozen North

by Philip Reeve Fantasy
New friends Sika and Shen try to beat the odds and win the Great Northern Race--in a sled pulled by a team of sixty-six pugs--in hopes of meeting the Snow-father and having him grant their wish. Gr. 4

Roller Girl

by Victoria Jamieson Contemporary Graphic
Astrid does everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and just maybe make some new friends of her own. Gr. 5 and up

Seven Dead Pirates

by Linda Bailey Fantasy
Thanks to smothering parents and a bullying class-mate, young Lewis is such a skittish wreck that he's unable to speak at all in school. An isolated tower room in the ramshackle seaside mansion that his family has inherited, seems like the perfect place to hide from the world in safety. Then he discovers that he's sharing the space with a boisterous, argumentative crew of pirate ghosts. Gr. 5 and up

Soar

by Joan Bauer Contemporary/Sports
Moving to Ohio when his adoptive father accepts a temporary job, twelve-year-old Jeremiah, a heart transplant recipient, has sixty days to lead a disbanded baseball team to victory. Gr. 5 and up