**Adventure/Mystery**

**Around the World in 100 Days**
by Gary Blackwood
(Dutton, $16.99) 978-0-525-42295-2
In England in 1891, Harry Fogg sets off in his motor car on an adventure-filled journey around the world. It follows Verne’s *Around the World in 80 Days*. (9-12)

*Calamity Jack*
by Shannon and Dean Hale, illustrated by Nathan Hale
(Bloomsbury, $14.99) 978-1-59990-373-6
Jack (of beanstalk fame) and Rapunzel join up to fight evil giants in a turn-of-the-century Western city. Rip-roaring fun; engaging graphics. (9-12)

**The Death-Defying Pepper Roux**
by Geraldine McCaughrean
(Harper, $16.99) 978-0-06-183665-7
Destined not to outlive his fourteenth birthday, Pepper takes a last walk to the harbor and finds himself aboard his father’s ship, not as passenger but as captain. (10-14)

**Emily’s Fortune**
by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
(Delacorte, $14.99) 978-0-385-73616-9
After Emily’s mother dies, a fellow orphan aids her on her stagecoach journey to join her aunt, as her mother’s greedy brother pursues Emily and her fortune. A rollicking adventure. (8-10)

**Girl’s Best Friend: A Maggie Brooklyn Mystery**
by Leslie Margolis
(Bloomsbury, $14.99) 978-1-59990-525-9
Maggie, a twelve-year-old dog walker, solves a mystery concerning disappearing dogs. (9-12)
*The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic*  
by Jennifer Trafton, illustrated by Brett Helquist  
(Dial, $16.99)  978-0-8037-3375-6  
Persimmony has wonderful adventures with strange, outlandish creatures on the isolated little island on which they all live.  (9-12)

**The Summer of Moonlight Secrets**  
by Danette Haworth  
(Walker, $16.99)  978-0-8027-9520-5  
Twelve-year-old Allie Jo is expecting a lonely summer. Instead she makes new friends, including the mysterious Tara, who seems more comfortable in the sea.  (9-12)

**Walls Within Walls**  
by Maureen Sherry  
(Katherine Tegen Books, $16.99)  978-0-06-176700-5  
Failure to return a library book dated 1937 causes a treasure to remain undiscovered, until the curious Smithfork children move into an historic Manhattan apartment.  (9-12)

**Animals**

- **Bulu:African Wonder Dog**  
  by Dick Houston  
  (Random House, $15.99)  978-0-375-84723-3  
  An unusual dog is adopted by an equally unusual couple who left England to make a new life in Zambia conserving wildlife. A true story.  (9-14)

- **Ellie McDoodle: Best Friends Fur-Ever**  
  written and illustrated by Ruth McNally Barshaw  
  (Bloomsbury, $12.99)  978-1-59990-426-9  
  Ellie’s sketchbook chronicles her family’s pet disputes and her own pet-sitting and school assignments travails. Entertaining drawings.  (8-10)

- **Rascal: A Dog and His Boy**  
  by Ken Wells  
  (Knopf, $16.99)  978-0-375-86652-4  
  Rascal, an irrepressible beagle, loves to romp through the Louisiana Bayou with his boy, Meely, chasing rabbits and sniffing out danger! Engaging line drawings.  (8-12)

**Coming of Age**
After All, You’re Callie Boone
by Winnie Mack
(Feiwel, $16.99)  978-0-312-56331-8
Eleven-year-old Callie discovers friendship, talent, and courage during one remarkable summer. (9-12)

After the Fire
by Becky Citra
(Orca, P$9.95)  978-1-55469-246-0
During a lake vacation, Melissa gains a new understanding of her struggling mother and learns that friends are not always who they seem to be.
(11-13)

As Simple as It Seems
by Sarah Weeks
(Harper, $15.99)  978-0-06-084663-3
Verbena, a feisty, imaginative girl suffering from fetal alcohol syndrome, finds out who she really is through an unusual summer friendship. (8-12)

The Dancing Pancake
by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff
(Knopf, $12.99)  978-0-375-85870-3
After her parents separate, Bindi adjusts to her changed life as her friends and extended family help to make her mother and aunt’s new diner a success. (8-11)

*The Dreamer
by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Peter Sís
(Scholastic, $17.99)  978-0-439-26970-4
This fictional biography of the Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, artfully combines spare prose, poetry, and ink drawings to describe a shy boy’s imaginative transformation of the world around him. (10-12)

Escaping the Tiger
by Laura Manivong
(Harper, $15.99)  978-0-06-166177-8
In 1982, twelve-year-old Vonlai and his family escape from Laos to a Thai refugee camp where they spend four long years struggling and hoping to reach America. (10-13)

Finding Family
by Tonya Bolden
(Bloomsbury, $15.99)  978-1-59990-318-7
After the death of her strict but loving aunt, twelve-year-old Delana sets out to discover the truth about her African-American family. Illustrated with nineteenth-century photos and postcards. (9-12)

The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough
by Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Sylvie  Daigneault
(Kids Can, $18.95)  978-1-55453-488-3
A Honduran girl saves her family from hunger by applying farming techniques learned from her teacher. Glowing colored pencil illustrations with some hints of magical realism. (8-11)

**A Good Horse**
by Jane Smiley  
(Knopf, $16.99) 978-0-375-86229-8  
An eighth grader learns that her success as a skilled equestrian and trainer at her family’s California ranch may lead to the sale and loss of her most beloved colt.  
(9-12)

**The Healing Spell**
by Kimberley Griffiths Little  
(Scholastic, $17.99) 978-0-545-16559-4  
Twelve-year-old Livie loves the Louisiana bayou and her Dad but struggles with her role in her mother’s accident. (9-12)

**How to Survive Middle School**
by Donna Gephart  
(Delacorte, $15.99) 978-0-385-73793-7  
A new school and a truly scary bully test old friendships and challenge David, but his online videos bring him local fame. (9-12)

**I, Emma Freke**
by Elizabeth Atkinson  
(Carolrhoda, $16.95) 978-0-7613-5604-2  
Twelve-year-old Emma feels out of place with kids her age and at home, but then she’s invited to a mysterious family reunion and things begin to change. (11-13)

**It’s Raining Cupcakes**
by Lisa Schroeder  
(Aladdin, $15.99) 978-1-4169-9084-0  
A girl, her best friend, a mom who doesn’t follow through, and a cupcake shop all come together. . .with icing on the top. (8-12)

**Liars and Fools**
by Robin Stevenson  
(Orcar, P$9.95) 978-1-55469-248-4  
When her father becomes interested in a psychic, Fiona half hopes she is lying and half that she can contact her mother, who died in an accident. (10-13)

**Ninth Ward**
by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
(Little, Brown, $15.99) 978-0-316-04307-6  
A young girl struggles courageously to survive during Hurricane Katrina as she deals with her ailing foster mother. (8-12)
Octavia Boone’s Big Questions about Life, the Universe, and Everything
by Rebecca Rupp
(Candlewick, $15.99)  978-0-7636-4491-8
Seventh-grader Octavia’s questions aren’t answered by her mother’s conservative Christian faith or her father’s devotion to Thoreau, and so she develops an experiment to test the existence of God. (10-13)

The Secret Life of Ms. Finkleman
by Ben H. Winters
(Harper, $16.99)  978-0-06-196541-8
Bethesda’s Social Studies project leads her to look into the private life of mousy Ms. Finkleman, her music teacher. Was she really a rock star? (9-12)

Sports Camp
by Rich Wallace
(Knopf, $15.99)  978-0-375-84059-3
Despite being among the youngest and a “new camper,” Riley manages to gain the respect of his bunkmates. (8-12)

*Star in the Forest
by Laura Resau
(Delacorte, $14.99)  978-0-385-73792-0
Illegal immigrant Zitlally, a fifth grader, deals with her family’s troubles when her father is deported. A stray dog and a girl befriend her. (8-12)

*Touch Blue
by Cynthia Lord
(Scholastic, $16.99)  978-0-545-03531-6
When eleven-year-old Tess pulls every trick to encourage foster brother Aaron to stay on her Maine island, she discovers what belonging really means. (8-11)

The Year Money Grew on Trees
written and illustrated by Aaron Hawkins
(HMH, $16.00)  978-0-547-27977-0
In early 1980s New Mexico, thirteen-year-old Jackson convinces his cousins and sisters to help resurrect a neglected apple orchard with the hope of making big money. (9-12)

Fantasy

The Boy Who Climbed Into the Moon
by David Almond
Allowed to stay home from school for a day, Paul does not expect to realize his dream of reaching the moon. (8-11)

**The Crowfield Curse**
by Pat Walsh
(Chicken House, $16.99) 978-0-545-22922-7
Will, an orphan living in an English medieval monastery, must battle the evil forces of “Old Magic” to keep himself alive. (10–13)

**Departure Time**
by Truus Matti, trans. by Nancy Forest-Flier
(Namelos, P$9.95) 978-1-60898-009-3
In this unfolding surrealistic adventure, two alternate stories merge in eleven-year-old Mouse’s gradual discovery of her identity. (10-12)

**Falling In**
by Frances O’Roark Dowell
(Atheneum, $16.99) 978-1-4169-5032-5
Isabelle, an outsider, enters a mysterious world where children mistake her for a witch. (8-12)

**The Grimm Legacy**
by Polly Shulman
(Putnam, $16.99) 978-0-399-25096-5
When Elizabeth becomes a page at a library which circulates material objects, not books, she gets involved in fantastic, scary, suspenseful happenings. (10-13)

**Half Upon a Time**
by James Riley
(Aladdin, $15.99) 978-1-4169-9593-7
Jack avoids his grandfather’s pleas to marry a princess until one plops from the sky. Together they embark on an adventure to find the princess’s missing grandmother, who looks suspiciously like Snow White. (8-10)

**Hawksmaid: The Untold Story of Robin Hood and Maid Marian**
by Kathryn Lasky
(Harper, $16.99) 978-0-06-000071-4
Against the background of the Crusades, “Robin Hood” and the supernaturally gifted falconer, “Maid Marian,” struggle to help the poor and defeat Prince John’s self-serving plots. (9-13)

**Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword**
written and illustrated by Barry Deutsch
(Amulet, $15.95) 978-0-8109-8422-6
A sharp, funny story of an Orthodox Jewish girl fighting imaginary dragons, real pigs, and bullies in her small town. The Yiddish words are defined on each page. Humorous black-and-white comic illustrations. (9-12)

**Ivy’s Ever After**
by Dawn Lairamore
(Holiday House, P P$16.95) 978-0-8234-2261-6
When she discovers the evil intentions of her intended husband, fourteen-year-old Princess Ivy sets out to thwart his plans. (9-13)

*The Last Words of Will Wolfkin*
by Steven Knight
(Walden Pond Press, $16.99) 978-0-06-170413-0
Imprisoned in his own body for more than fourteen years, Toby suddenly fantasizes himself on a journey to Iceland with a cat turned boy. (10-13)

**Lost in Lexicon: An Adventure in Words and Numbers**
by Pendred Noyce, illustrated by Joan Charles
(Tumblehome Press, P$12.95) 978-0-9845250-0-3
Thirteen-year-old cousins Daphne and Ivan stumble into a world where punctuation attacks the people. They encounter keepers and enemies but emerge triumphant. Gentle black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**Museum of Thieves**
by Lian Tanner
(Delacorte, $16.99) 978-0-385-73905-4
The evil guardians of Jewel and their leader, the Fugleman, cannot defeat brave Goldie, Toadspit, and the museum protectors. (10-12)

**Nightshade City**
by Hilary Wagner
(Holiday House, $17.95) 978-0-8234-2285-2
Vincent and Victor Nightshade band together with legendary Juniper to save the residents of the Catacombs from their dictator, a rat. (9-12)

**No Such Thing as Dragons**
by Philip Reeve
(Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-2224-2
A young, mute boy, apprenticed to a dragon-slayer suspects that the winged beasts do not exist until he learns the truth. (9-12)

**The Owl Keeper**
by Christine Brodien-Jones, illustrated by Maggie Kneen
(Delacorte, $17.99) 978-0-385-73814-9
Fleeing for their lives from a brutal regime, Max and Rose embark on a perilous quest to fulfill a prophecy. (10–13)
The Ring of Five
by Eoin McNamee
(Wendy Lamb, $16.99) 978-0-385-73731-9
Kidnapped on his way to boarding school, Danny finds himself in a school for spies with his life in danger. (9-11)

The Search for Wondla
by Tony DiTerlizzi
(S&S, $17.99) 978-1-4169-8310-1
Eva unsuccessfully searches the world to find other humans, but a creature with very positive human qualities helps her survive. (9-12)

The Thirteenth Princess
by Diane Zahler
(HarperCollins, $15.99) 978-0-06-182498-2
In this adaptation of “The Twelve Dancing Princesses,” Zita, the thirteenth, relegated to the kitchen, saves her enchanted sisters with the help of friends. (8-12)

Wayfarer
by R. J. Anderson
(HarperTeen, $16.99) 978-0-06-155477-3
Fifteen-year-old Linden is sent on a dangerous mission to retrieve the magic lost by the faeries of the Oak. Timothy, a human teen, helps. (10-13)

The Wish Stealers
by Tracy Trivas
(Aladdin, $16.99) 978-1-4169-8725-3
Sixth-grader Griffin loves making wishes, but an unexpected gift comes with a curse that will make her think twice before wishing again. (9-12)

Folk

A Tale Dark and Grimm
by Adam Gidwitz
(Dutton, $16.99) 978-0-525-42334-8
A series of fractured fairy tales are pulled together in a humorous, scary narrative. (10-13)

Historical Fiction
Best Friends Forever: A World War II Scrapbook
by Beverly Patt
(Marshall Cavendish, $17.99) 978-0-7614-5577-6
In a fictional scrapbook inspired by her mother’s bedtime story, the author chronicles the friendship of two girls once interned in a Japanese prison camp. (10-13)

Black Radishes
by Susan Lynn Meyer
(Delacorte, $16.99) 978-0-385-73881-1
In 1940, Gustave and his family move south from Paris to escape the Germans, but even their small village is not safe from anti-Semitism. (9-12)

Blockhead: The Life of Fibonacci
by Joseph D’Agnese, illustrated by John O’Brien
(Henry Holt, $16.99) 978-0-8050-6305-9
The adventurous life and mathematical discoveries of the famous mathematician are accompanied by detailed illustrations. (8-10)

*The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According to Susy)
by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham
(Scholastic, $17.99) 978-0-545-12508-6
Mark Twain’s thirteen-year-old daughter Susy writes his biography—warts and all—dispensing advice along the way. Earth-toned artwork. (8-12)

Forge
by Laurie Halse Anderson
(Atheneum, $16.99) 978-1-4169-6144-4
Encamped with Washington’s army at Valley Forge, the escaped slave Curzon suffers cold, hunger, and the injustices of prejudice, but finds hope in the appearance of a beloved friend. (9-12)

How to Get Rich on a Texas Cattle Drive
by Tod Olson, afterword by Marc Aronson, illustrated by Scott Allred and Gregory Proch
(National Geographic, $18.95) 978-1-4263-0524-5
What was it really like to be a cowboy? You’ll be surprised at some of the things you’ll learn! Evocative illustrations; archival photographs. (9-12)

Is It Night or Day?
by Fern Schumer Chapman
(FSG, $17.99) 978-0-374-17744-7
In 1938, fearing Hitler’s persecution, twelve-year-old Edith is sent alone to the United States where she copes with life in a foreign country, anti-Semitism, and difficult relations with her uncle’s family. (10-14)

Leaving Gee’s Bend
by Irene Latham
(Putnam, $16.99) 978-0-399-25179-5
In a tiny African-American settlement in 1932 Alabama, ten-year-old Ludelphia is determined, despite great risk and difficulty, to get her gravely ill mother the medical help she needs. (10-13)

*One Crazy Summer*
by Rita Williams-Garcia
(Amistad, $15.99) 978-0-06-076088-5
When Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive in Oakland, California, in the summer of 1968 to spend time with their long-absent mother, they learn more than they bargained for. (10-14)

Palace Beautiful
by Sarah DeFord Williams
(Penguin, P$16.99) 978-0-399-25298-3
A journal written in 1918 and a new friend help thirteen-year-old Sadie and her younger sister come to terms with issues in their lives. (10-12)

The Red Umbrella
by Christina Diaz Gonzalez
(Knopf, $16.99) 978-0-375-86190-1
When Castro takes over and life becomes dangerous for apolitical individuals, fourteen-year-old Lucía and her seven-year old brother Frankie are sent to Nebraska to live with an older couple. (10-14)

The Risen Horse
by Karen Tashkew
(Univ. of New Mexico, P$15.95) 978-0-8263-4837-1
When fifteen-year-old Isabel is sent to the Carlisle School for Indians, her world opens up. (10-13)

Stand Straight, Ella Kate: The True Story of a Real Giant
by Kate Klise, illustrated by M. Sarah Klise
(Dial, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3404-3
More than eight feet tall, Ella Kate Ewing, born in Missouri in 1872, makes the most of her unusual size. Fictionalized biography of a real person. Acrylic illustrations. (8-10)

Storyteller
by Patricia Reilly Giff
(Wendy Lamb, $15.99) 978-0-375-83888-0
Elizabeth feels a powerful connection to the portrait of an eighteenth century ancestor and learns about her family’s history during the American Revolution. (9-12)

Take Me With You
by Carolyn Marsden
(Candlewick, $14.99) 978-0-7636-3739-2
Living at the Naples orphanage since World War II, blond-haired Pina is sure she will be adopted first. Susanna, daughter of an African-American soldier, does not dare to dream. Their hopes are fulfilled in unexpected ways. (10-12)
This Means War!
by Ellen Wittlinger
(S&S, $16.99) 978-1-4169-7101-6
During the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis that created real fear of war, a group of youngsters distract themselves with a “war” between boys and girls. (9-12)

Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood
by Jame Richards
(Knopf, $16.99) 978-0-375-85885-7
Set against the violent man-made disaster of 1899, a love story between an upper-class girl and the son of a miner unfolds in free verse. (9-14)

Turtle in Paradise
by Jennifer L. Holm
(Random House, $16.99) 978-0-375-83688-6
A reluctant visitor to her aunt in Key West, Turtle and the “diaper gang” make the best of life in Depression-era Florida. (9-12)

Warriors in the Crossfire
by Nancy Bo Flood
(Front Street, $17.95) 978-1-59078-661-1
Two teenagers caught in the conflict between the Japanese and Americans in World War II Saipan make difficult decisions to save their families. (11-14)

When Molly Was a Harvey Girl
by Frances M. Wood
(Kane/Miller, $15.99) 978-1-935279-51-8
In the late 1800s, two sisters, one at thirteen masquerading as eighteen, go West to work in a railroad eatery and encounter myriad adventures. (9-12)

Wishing for Tomorrow
by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Nick Maland
(McElderry, $16.99) 978-1-4424-0169-3
In this sequel to the classic A Little Princess, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, we learn what happened to the school and the students Sara Crewe left behind. (9-12)

The Wonder of Charlie Anne
by Kimberly Newton Fusco
(Knopf, $16.99) 978-0-375-86104-8
Charlie Anne copes with the death of her mother, the hardships of family life, and racial prejudice in 1930s Massachusetts. (9-13)

Year of the Tiger
by Alison Lloyd
(Holiday House, P$16.95) 978-0-8234-2277-7
During the Han Empire, Len and Li, from totally different backgrounds, team up. A genuine friendship develops as the boys save the city. (10-12)

*Zora and Me*
by Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon
(Candlewick, $16.99) 978-0-7636-4300-3
Even as a child, Zora Neale Hurston was a prodigious storyteller. Whenever her vivid imagination ran away with her, her supportive family and community were there to help. (8-12)

**Humor**

*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Birthday Parties, Science Projects, And Other Man-Made Catastrophes*
by Lenore Look, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
(S& W, $15.99) 978-0-375-86335-6
When Alvin receives an invitation to a girl’s birthday party, his fear of everything may prevent him from going. Expressive line drawings accompany the humorous text. (9-11)

*Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies*
by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Amulet, $12.95) 978-0-8109-8416-5
Ferocious giant bunnies land their spaceship at a camp where twins Kevin and Joules must save the planet from them. Black-and-white illustrations. (8-12)

*Big Nate: In a Class by Himself*
written and illustrated by Lincoln Peirce
(Harper, $12.99) 978-0-06-194434-5
Nate’s sense of humor helps him survive the many trials and tribulations of middle school. (9-11)

*Clementine, Friend of the Week*
by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee
(Hyperion, $14.99) 978-1-42311-355-3
The inimitable Clementine returns and has to deal with the ups and downs of friendship, and a Very Upsetting Thing. (8-11)

*Dust Devil*
by Anne Isaacs, illustrated by Paul O.Zelinsky
(S&W, $17.99) 978-0-375-86722-4
Swamp Angel’s back and this larger-than-life girl has moved on to the wild west of Montana. A rollicking tall tale with humorous oil paintings. (8-11)
**The Fabled Fifth Graders of Aesop Elementary School**  
by Candace Fleming  
(S&W, $15.99) 978-0-375-86334-9  
A class full of extreme individuals coupled with a very creative teacher results in a year of joyful learning. (8-10)

**The Fantastic Adventures of Baron Munchausen**  
by Heinz Janisch, illustrated by Aljoscha Blau  
(Enchanted Lion, $17.95) 978-1-59270-091-2  
Surrealistic paintings lead into a fantastic world where you can ride a cannonball in the air or a sea horse under water. (9-12)

**Finn Reeder Flu Fighter: How I Survived a Worldwide Pandemic, the School Bully, and the Craziest Game of Dodge Ball Ever**  
by Eric Stevens, illustrated by Kay Fraser  
(Stone Arch Books, $25.32) 978-1-4342-2450-7  
Finn describes the five weeks in which the H1N1 virus picks off his teachers and friends. Written in journal form with amusing illustrated asides (7-10)

**Guys Read: Funny Business**  
edited by Jon Scieszka  
(Walden Pond Press, $16.99) 978-0-06-196374-2  
Engaging and funny stories about contemporary boys by current well-known authors. (10-13)

**Melonhead and the Big Stink**  
by Katy Kelly, illustrated by Gillian Johnson  
(Delacorte, $14.99) 978-0-385-73658-9  
Fifth-grader Adam “Melonhead” Melon tries to behave well enough to earn a trip to see the gigantic flower giving off the “big stink.” (8-11)

**My Invisible Sister**  
by Beatrice Colin and Sara Pinto, illustrated by Sara Pinto  
(Bloomsbury, $15.99) 978-1-59990488-7  
Ten-year-old Frank’s older sister is invisible. Not being too happy with her predicament, she makes trouble in the family’s new neighborhood. (8-10)

**Pickle Impossible**  
by Eli Stutz  
(Bloomsbury, $15.99) 978-1-59990-464-1  
Pierre and Aurore must get a jar of pickles to the Picklelympics contest in Switzerland and save the family farm, but the evil Monsieur Borsht has other plans. (9-12)

**School!: Adventures at the Harvey N. Trouble Elementary School**  
by Kate McMullan, inspired and illustrated by George Booth
A cast of characters identified by their “funny names” interact in this fast-paced romp with lessons to be learned. Line drawings capture the zaniness. (8-12)

**Smells Like Dog**
by Suzanne Selfors
(Little, Brown, $15.99) 978-0-316-04398-4
Homer Pudding, a twelve-year-old aspiring treasure hunter, runs away to find out the identity of the most important thing his explorer uncle left him when he died. An engaging adventure spoof. (9-12)

**Spaceheadz (Book 1)**
by Jon Scieszka, with Francesco Sedita, illustrated by Shane Prigmore
(S&S, $14.99) 978-1-4169-7951-7
Earth is about to be turned off and horrible things can happen, unless Michael K and his new alien friends recruit three or four million kids to become Spaceheadz. Cartoon-like black-and-white illustrations.(8-11)

**The Strange Case of Origami Yoda**
written and illustrated by Tom Angleberger
(Amulet, $12.95) 978-0-8109-8425-7
Short chapters tell of the outcast boy, who becomes advisor to Middle School social interactions, from the varying points of view of different sixth-grade students. Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

**Vordak the Incomprehensible: How to Grow Up and Rule the World**
by Scott Seegert, illustrated by John Martin
(Egmont, $13.99) 978-1-60684-013-9
A clever super villain offers rules and advice to readers on how to develop an evil plan to rule the world. Funny black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**Science Fiction**

**Boom!**
by Mark Haddon
(David Fickling, $15.99) 978-0-385-75187-2
Jimbo vividly and humorously tells of a dangerous adventure that begins when he and his friend bug the faculty room. (9-12)

**Jack Blank and the Imagine Nation**
by Matt Myklusch
(Aladdin, $16.99) 978-1-4169-9561-6
An orphan boy finds himself transported to a world of superheroes where he must discover his own identity and prove himself worthy of forging his own future. (9-12)
Today

**The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister**  
written and illustrated by Charlotte Agell  
(Henry Holt, $16.99) 978-0-8050-8902-8  
Adopted from China and raised in Maine, nine-year-old India has adventures that bring her closer to her artist mother, her male best friend, and her father and his new partner, Richard. (8-11)

**Animal Rescue Team: Hide and Seek**  
by Sue Stauffacher, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont  
(Knopf, $12.99) 978-0-375-95849-6  
Keisha, along with friends and family, rescue a deer with a plastic trick-or-treat pumpkin stuck on its head. (8-10)

**The Archaeolojesters**  
by Andreas Oertel  
(Lobster Press, P$10.95) 978-1-897550-83-0  
To keep their Canadian hometown afloat, three twelve-year-olds concoct a crazy-seeming plan to create and plant a fake ancient Egyptian artifact. Can it possibly work? (8-11)

*The Ballad of Knuckles McGraw*  
by Lois Peterson  
(Orca, P$7.95) 978-1-55469-203-3  
Abandoned by his mother, eight-year-old Kevin imagines himself as a brave cowboy who is not afraid of being on his own. (8-12)

**Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)**  
by Lisa Yee, illustrated by Dan Santat  
(Arthur A. Levine, $15.99) 978-0-545-05594-3  
Fourth-grader Bobby faces stage fright, a neighbor’s cat, asthma, and being different from his family. It’s not always easy. (8-10)

**Boys Without Names**  
by Kashmira Sheth  
(B+B, $15.99) 978-0-06-185760-7  
Desperate to help his family in Mumbai, Gopal becomes trapped as a child slave. His only hope of escape lies in using his storytelling skills. (10-12)

**Cheat**  
by Kristin Butcher  
(Orca, P$9.95) 978-1-55469-274-3  
After a high-school journalist writes an article about a cheating scam, she learns the challenges of journalism and loyalty to family. (10-12)
The Chihuahua Chase
by A. E. Cannon, illustrated by Julie Olson
(FSG, $15.99) 978-0-374-31259-6
Addie May joins her nemesis and fourth grade classmate Teddy to find his missing dog before Saturday’s big race. Black-and-white pictures. (8-10)

Crunch
by Leslie Connor
(Katherine Tegen Books, $16.99) 978-0-06-169229-1
When a gasoline shortage strands his parents far from home, fourteen-year-old Dewey finds a surprising way to help the customers at their suddenly very busy bicycle shop. (9-12)

Darius Bell and the Glitter Pool
by Odo Hirsch
(Kane/Miller, $15.99) 978-1-935279-65-5
With his family’s honor and home at risk, Darius Bell hopes his underground discovery can save the day. (8-11)

The Fizzy Whiz Kid
by Maiya Williams
(Amulet, $16.95) 978-0-8109-8347-2
Eleven-year-old Mitch feels like an outsider at his new Hollywood school until he lands a part in a TV commercial. (9-12)

Layla, Queen of Hearts
by Glenda Millard, illustrated by Patrice Barton
(FSG, $16.99) 978-0-374-34360-6
With the help of her friends, Layla finds Miss Amelie to be her companion for Senior Citizen’s Day. (8-11)

Little Blog on the Prairie
by Cathleen Davitt Bell
(Bloomsbury, $16.99) 978-1-59990-286-9
When Genevieve has to spend her summer at an 1890s “pioneer” camp, she secretly sends text messages to her friends. (10-12)

Me and Rolly Maloo
by Janet S. Wong, illustrated by Elizabeth Buttler
(Charlesbridge, $15.95) 978-1-58089-158-5
What is Jenna to do? She’s a math whiz, but she’d like to extend her group of friends. Is giving a test answer cheating or charity? (8-10)

My Life as a Book
by Janet Tashjian, illustrated by Jake Tashjian
(Henry Holt, $16.99) 978-0-8050-8903-5
Twelve-year-old “reluctant reader” Derek copes with summer reading, Learning Camp, and a decade-old mystery. Amusing vocabulary cartoons. (9-12)

*Noodle Pie
by Ruth Starke
(Kane/Miller, $15.99)  978-1-935279-25-9
A trip to Vietnam is a homecoming for his father but a real culture shock for Andy, who helps his street-smart cousins transform the simple family restaurant into a tourist-friendly money-maker. (9-12)

Old Photographs
by Sherie Posesorski
(Second Story Press, PS$10.95)  978-1-897187-78-4
Two fourteen-year-olds try to find the robbers who ransacked a home and beat a confused elderly woman they had befriended. (10-12)

The Other Half of My Heart
by Sundee T. Frazier
(Delacorte, $16.99)  978-0-385-73440-0
Though struggling with her own identity, white-skinned eleven-year-old Minni comes to understand her twin black-skinned sister’s feelings when they participate in a Southern African-American beauty pageant. (10-12)

*Out of My Mind
by Sharon Draper
(Atheneum, $16.99)  978-1-4169-7170-2
Melody Brooks can’t walk, feed herself, or talk. Her classmates think she’s dumb and weird. How can she find a way to communicate her brilliant, retentive mind? (9-12)

Penny Dreadful
by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Abigail Halpin
(Random House, $16.99)  978-0-375-86199-4
Money problems turned nine-year-old Penny’s life upside down once. She must find a way to keep them from doing it again. (8-11)

*The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy
by Jill MacLean
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, $11.95)  978-1-55455-145-3
Prinny’s small-town Newfoundland life with an alcoholic mother, few friends, and serious reading difficulties becomes even harder when bullies invade. (10-13)

*Saraswati’s Way
by Monika Schröder
(FSG, $16.99)  978-0-374-36411-3
Twelve-year-old Akash, an Indian street child, uses his wits, his integrity, his math skills, and his devotion to a Hindu goddess to guide him toward his dream of a higher education. (9-12)

**Saving Sky**  
by Diane Stanley  
(Harper, $15.99) 978-0-06-123905-2  
As terrorist attacks rise in the U.S., and the police begin to arrest all Arabs or presumed Arabs, Sky’s family hides Kareem on their secluded New Mexico ranch. (10-14)

**Shooting Kabul**  
by N.H. Senzai  
(S&S, $16.99) 978-1-4424-0194-5  
Fadi and his family flee war-torn Afghanistan, leaving his younger sister behind. Once in California they struggle to reunite the family. (9-14)

**Slick**  
by Sara Cassidy  
(Orca, PS9.95) 978-1-55469-352-8  
Liza and her seventh-grade friends take action on behalf of Guatemalans exploited by oil companies. (9-12)

**Smile**  
by Raina Telgemeier  
(Graphix, PS10.99) 978-0-545-13206-0  
After an accident, sixth-grader Raina faces extensive dental work, which encourages the school bullies to increase their taunts until she finds her confidence…and herself. A graphic novel. Full-color panels. (8-12)

**Sweet and Sunny**  
by Coleen Murtagh Paratore  
(Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-07582-4  
Sunny Holiday is back, determined to make Kid’s Day a national holiday, while using her “firefly ideas” to help those around her. (8-10)

**Tortilla Sun**  
by Jennifer Cervantes  
(Chronicle, $16.99) 978-0-8118-7015-3  
While spending the summer in New Mexico with her grandmother, Izzie, twelve, learns about her Mexican heritage and the true story of her father’s death. (9-12)

**Truth with a Capital T**  
by Bethany Hegedus  
(Delacorte, $16.99) 978-0-385-73837-8  
No longer “Gifted and Talented,” Maebelle needs a summer alone with her grandparents. To her chagrin, Isaac, her adopted cousin, is there. (10-14)
Watch Out, World - Rosy Cole is Going Green!
by Sheila Greenwald
(FSG, $15.99)  978-0-374-36280-5
Rosy Cole comes up with some unusual “green-themed” ideas for her school’s fall fair. (8-10)

What Happened on Fox Street
by Tricia Springstubb
(Balzar & Bray, $15.99)  978-0-06-198635-2
When Mo finds out that an unscrupulous real estate developer is trying to disrupt family life on her street, she goes into action. (8-12)

Willowood
by Cecilia Galante
(Aladdin, $16.99)  978-1-4169-8022-3
Fifth-grader Lily feels lost and lonely in a new city until she begins to collect an unusual group of friends. (9-12)