



RISING EIGHTH GRADERS FICTION

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer

YA Fic & PB

Sixteen-year-old shoe salesperson Jenna Boller chauffeurs elderly Madeline Gladstone across the country in a last-ditch effort to stop a corporate takeover by her own son. It turns out to be more than just a humorous adventure.

Ask Me No Questions by Marina Tamar Budhos

YA Fic & PB

When their father is detained at the Canadian border, teenage sisters Nadira and Aisha are sent back to Queens, New York to try and live normal lives while keeping their illegal status a secret.

Red Kayak by Priscilla Cummings

YA Fic & PB

Brady realizes he must tell the truth about his friends' involvement in a prank gone tragically wrong.

Romiette and Julio by Sharon M. Draper

YA Fic & PB

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Latino boy, fall in love after meeting online, but they face fear and harassment by a gang who objects to their dating.

Earthquake at Dawn by Kristiana Gregory

J Fic & PB, YA PB Fic

Despite being forbidden to take pictures after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Edith Irvine and her servant Daisy risk danger as they travel around photographing the city's destruction.

Silverfin: A James Bond Adventure by Charles Higson

YA Fic & PB, Audiobook

What does it take to become the greatest secret agent the world has ever known? A young boy's inquisitive mind and determination set him on the path that will one day put him in pursuit of the most dangerous criminals of all time.

Bird by Angela Johnson

J Fic, YA Fic & PB, Audiobook

Thirteen-year-old Bird has run away to Alabama in hopes of finding her stepfather and convincing him to return home. While there, she meets three people who reshape her definition of family.

No More Dead Dogs by Gordon Korman

YA PB Fic & Audiobook

While serving a detention for English class, football hero Wallace Wallace begins transforming the school play, "Old Shep, My Pal."

Chicks With Sticks: It's a Purl Thing by Elizabeth Lenhard

YA Fic

Scottie, Amanda, Bella, and Tay, teenage girls from very different social cliques, become friends after forming a knitting club.

Red Midnight by Ben Mikaelson

YA PB Fic

After guerilla soldiers kill their family, Santiago and his sister leave Guatemala in a kayak – hoping to reach the United States and the promise of a new life.

The Other Side of Truth by Beverly Naidoo

J Fic & PB, YA PB Fic

After their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are smuggled to London. Abandoned and afraid for themselves and for their father in Nigeria, they struggle to survive.

Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen

YA Fic & PB, Audiobook

The glamour of war causes fifteen-year-old Charley to lie about his age in order to join the Union Army, but as the battles begin, glamour turns to nightmares, fear, terror and death.

Lady Knight by Tamora Pierce (or others in the series)

YA PB SFF & Audiobook

Eighteen-year-old Kel has become a knight, and she finds herself commanding an outpost of refugees, battling the forces of the evil Balyce.

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

J Fic & PB, YA PB Fic, JRB & CD (recorded book), also available in Spanish

Esperanza is surrounded by wealth and love until her father dies. Now she and her mother must leave Mexico for California to find farm work at the start of the Great Depression.

Under the Blood Red Sun by Graham Salisbury

J PB Fic, YA PB Fic, Audiobook

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tomi's Japanese-born father and Grampa are arrested. Only his baseball buddies, The Rats, stay his friends when others look at him with suspicion.

The Schwa Was Here by Neal Shusterman

YA PB Fic

Eighth-grader Antsy Bonano discovers classmate Calvin Schwa, a kid who is so unnoticeable teachers have been marking him absent for years. The Schwa's invisibility makes him the perfect accomplice for pranks, until they choose the wrong victim.

Crash by Jerry Spinelli

J PB Fic, YA PB Fic, Audiobook

Football star Crash has always bullied Penn Webb, an all-around dork, but Crash begins to rethink his attitude when his grandfather becomes ill and a friend's joke goes too far.

The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien

J Fic & PB, YA PB SFF, Classic, Fic, Audiobook, also available in Spanish and Chinese

Bilbo Baggins, his friend the wizard, Gandalf, and thirteen dwarves set out to recover a stolen hoard of treasure from the greedy dragon, Smaug.

The Thief by Megan Whalen Turner

J Fic & PB, YA PB SFF, Audiobook

If Gen the thief, imprisoned for life, can steal a legendary stone hidden in a mysterious temple, the king will set him free.

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

YA Fic & PB, Audiobook

Bryce Loski has always been bothered by Juli Baker. But his feelings change after his grandfather shares some insights into her family and their own.

Dealing with Dragons by Patricia Wrede

YA PB SFF, JRB & CD, Audiobook

Princess Cimorene and Kazul the dragon have a bargain: Cimorene cooks and cleans for Kazul, and Kazul keeps the knights from rescuing her.

RIISING EIGHTH GRADERS NONFICTION

I Have Lived a Thousand Years by Livia Bitton-Jackson

YA PB NFC

A Holocaust memoir told by a young Jewish girl about the invasion of Hungary recalls death camps, torture, forced labor and mass graves – but it also tells a story of love, hope and survival.

The World's Dumbest Criminals by Daniel Butler

YA 364.1 BUT

The title says it all: 100 funny stories about dumb criminals from all over the world.

Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story by Ben Carson

YA PB NFC, YA Bio & Bio

From his start in life as an inner-city ruffian, Ben Carson becomes a world-famous neurosurgeon who does the impossible in the operating room to save desperately ill children.

Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board

by Bethany Hamilton

YA PB NFC

Thirteen-year-old surfer Bethany Hamilton doesn't let the loss of her arm to a shark attack keep her from returning to the sport she loves.

Women of Hope: African Americans Who Made a Difference by Joyce Hansen

J 920.7, YA 920.7

Take a look at these inspiring photographs of thirteen African American women who blazed trails in journalism, politics, law, science and the arts.

Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-Li Jiang

J Bio, YA PB NFC

Must Ji-Li give up hope of being a gymnast when the Cultural Revolution interrupts her happy life in communist China?

Bad Boy: A Memoir by Walter Dean Myers

YA PB NFC, YA 813.54

Author Walter Dean Myers grows up in Harlem, raised by a loving foster family but goes through a difficult adolescence filled with trouble.

First in Space by James Vining

YA Graphix 629.454

Follow the adventures and dangers of the chimps and their trainers as they prepare for space flight in the 1950s.



Prepared by K. Kanvin and D. Smith, 2008