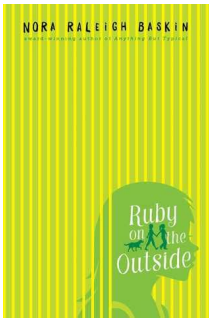
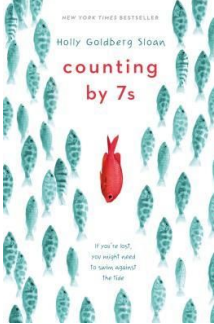
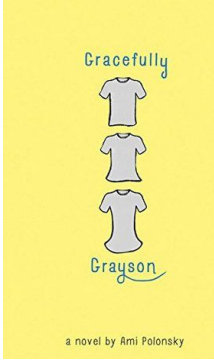
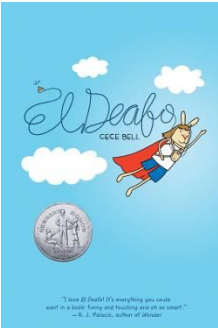
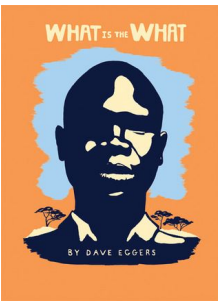
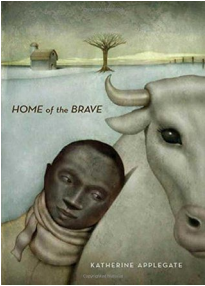


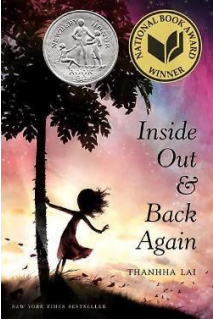
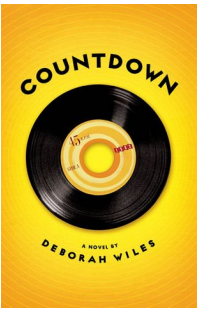
Finding Yourself When Faced with Challenges

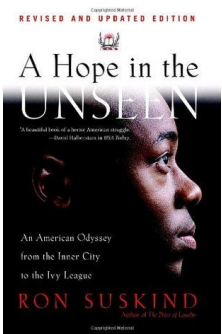
Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Pg. #
 <p>Ruby on the Outside by Nora Baskin</p>	<p>Ruby lives with her grandmother because her mother is incarcerated. Her new best friend happens to be the sister of the boy who died as a result of a robbery in which Ruby's mother participated.</p>	<p>New York, contemporary times</p>	<p>4+</p>	<p>176</p>
 <p>Counting by Sevens</p>	<p>Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now.</p> <p>Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is <i>not</i> a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>4+</p>	<p>380</p>
 <p>Gracefully Grayson by Amy Polonsky</p>	<p>Grayson is a girl born into the wrong body and must keep this secret. The love and support she receives helps her to step into the life she should be living.</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>4+</p>	<p>243</p>


Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Pg. #
 <p>George by Alex Gino</p>	<p>BE WHO YOU ARE. When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.</p> <p>George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part. . . because she's a boy.</p> <p>With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte – but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>4 and up</p>	<p>195</p>
 <p>One for the Murphys by Linda Mulally Hunt</p>	<p>After her stepfather beats them up, Carley is placed in foster care while her hard-partying mother recovers in the hospital. Angry, frightened, and determined to be unhappy, the 12-year-old finds the Murphy family quite a change. At first she's difficult, but the kindness of Julie, the mother; easygoing Jack, the father; and the slow acceptance of their three sons predictably turn things around. There is never any doubt that the generous Murphys and a friendship with a girl at school will be redeeming factors for sarcastic, funny, tough Carley. When little Michael Eric has a medical crisis, she cements her place in the family by jumping in to help. Because of the balance between showing her inner good nature and her mean and tough performance, readers might have a hard time recognizing which is Carley's true self and which is the front she is presenting. Her mother, quite surprisingly, turns out to have some redeeming qualities, a fact that provides drama when Carley is conflicted about returning to Vegas or continuing to live in Connecticut with the new family she has made.</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>Gr 5-8 (but written on 3rd grade level)</p>	<p>224</p>
 <p>Wings by Christopher Myers</p>	<p>Myers retells the myth of Icarus through the story of Ikarus Jackson, the new boy on the block, who can fly above the rooftops and over the crowd. In this contemporary version, the winged kid nearly falls from the sky, not because he flies too high and dares to go too near the sun, but because jeering kids in the schoolyard and repressive adults don't like his being different and try to break his soaring spirit. Even more than in Black Cat (1999), Myers' beautiful cut-paper collages are eloquent and open. Some urban scenes are like the elemental silhouettes in cave paintings. Some are rich and elaborate, with fluid aerial perspectives that change the way we see streets</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>3-6</p>	<p>40</p>

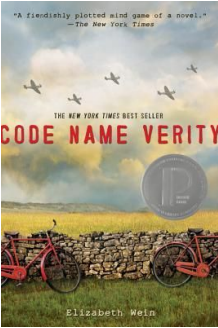

	<p>and people. Then there are the images of constraint and attack: the bullies like a monstrous Hydra with many heads; the schoolyard like a fiery sun; Ikarus' wings caught in jagged barbed wire near the classroom blackboard. In one view, he is struggling to stay in the air above oceans and continents, and in the corner of the page is a photo of derelict rowboats. The narrator of the spare text is a lonely girl, a golden figure in most of the pictures, who is reaching for the boy in flight. When she finally finds the courage to stand up to the bullies, she tells Ikarus he's beautiful and gives him the strength to fly free. The resolution is a little neat, but there's so much to talk about here--the multiple meaning of the pictures, the transformation of the myth, the hero outsider.</p>			
 <p>El Deafo by Cece Bell</p>	<p>When cartoonist Bell was four years old, a case of meningitis left her severely deaf. In this graphic memoir, she tells readers about the friends and family who help her adjust, the frustration she feels when learning to communicate, and the devices she uses to assist her hearing, most notably the Phonic Ear, a large machine that connects to a microphone her teachers wear and amplifies sounds in her hearing aids. Aside from making school easier, the Phonic Ear gives Bell a superpower: when her teachers forget to doff the microphone, she can still hear them anywhere in the school (including the bathroom!). She keeps her newfound superpower a secret and daydreams about being El Deafo, a super alter ego whose deafness makes her powerful. Bell's bold and blocky full-color cartoons perfectly complement her childhood stories—she often struggles to fit in and sometimes experiences bullying, but the cheerful illustrations promise a sunny future.</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>4-7</p>	<p>233 (graphic novel)</p>
 <p>What is the What by David Eggers</p>	<p>From the bestselling author of <i>A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius</i>, <i>What Is the What</i> is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children—the so-called Lost Boys—was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, <i>What Is the What</i> is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.</p>	<p>Sudan and United States</p>	<p>12 and up</p>	<p>538</p>

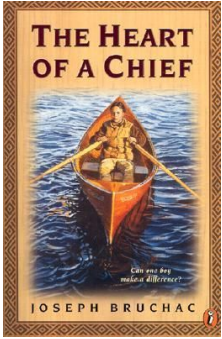
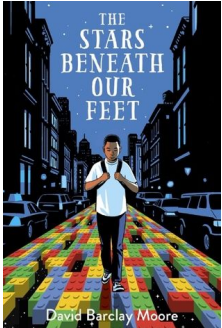
Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Pg. #
 <p data-bbox="100 552 318 617">Refugee by Alan Gratz</p>	<p data-bbox="342 176 626 210">Three different kids.</p> <p data-bbox="342 243 812 277">One mission in common: ESCAPE.</p> <p data-bbox="342 310 935 449">Josef is a Jewish boy in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...</p> <p data-bbox="342 483 922 621">Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety and freedom in America...</p> <p data-bbox="342 655 932 793">Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...</p> <p data-bbox="342 827 932 1121">All three young people will go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers—from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But for each of them, there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, surprising connections will tie their stories together in the end.</p>	<p data-bbox="967 176 1179 285">Germany 1930s Cuba 1994 Syria 2015</p>	<p data-bbox="1247 176 1365 210">5 and up</p>	<p data-bbox="1401 176 1455 210">338</p>
 <p data-bbox="100 1451 261 1589">Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate</p>	<p data-bbox="342 1148 935 1320">Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – cold and unkind.</p> <p data-bbox="342 1354 943 1761">In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means "family" in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country.</p> <p data-bbox="342 1795 935 1929">Bestselling author Katherine Applegate presents a beautifully wrought novel about an immigrant's journey from hardship to hope.</p>	<p data-bbox="967 1148 1166 1182">Sudan and MN</p>	<p data-bbox="1247 1148 1365 1182">5 and up</p>	<p data-bbox="1401 1148 1503 1224">267 (Verse)</p>

	<p><i>Home of the Brave</i> is a 2008 Bank Street – Best Children's Book of the Year.</p>			
 <p>Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai</p>	<p>Narrating in sparse free-verse poems, 10-year-old Ha brings a strong, memorable voice to the immigrant experience as her family moves from war-torn South Vietnam to Alabama in 1975. First-time author Lai, who made the same journey with her family, divides her novel into four sections set in Vietnam, "At Sea," and the last two in Alabama. Lai gives insight into cultural and physical landscapes, as well as a finely honed portrait of Ha's family as they await word about Ha's POW father and face difficult choices (awaiting a sponsor family, "...Mother learns/ sponsors prefer those/ whose applications say Christians./ Just like that/ Mother amends our faith,/ saying all beliefs/ are pretty much the same"). The taut portrayal of Ha's emotional life is especially poignant as she cycles from feeling smart in Vietnam to struggling in the States, and finally regains academic and social confidence. A series of poems about English grammar offer humor and a lens into the difficulties of adjusting to a new language and customs ("Whoever invented English/ should be bitten/ by a snake"). An incisive portrait of human resilience.</p>	<p>Vietnam/Alabama 1975</p>	<p>Gr 3-6</p>	<p>262 (Verse)</p>
 <p>Countdown by Deborah Wiles</p> <p>Discussion Guide</p>	<p>Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. Her saintly younger brother is no help, and the cute boy across the street only complicates things. Worst of all, everyone is walking around just waiting for a bomb to fall.</p> <p>It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, it only gets worse. Franny doesn't know how to deal with what's going on in the world -- no more than she knows how to deal with what's going on with her family and friends. But somehow she's got to make it through.</p> <p>Featuring a captivating story interspersed with footage from 1962, award-winning author Deborah Wiles has created a documentary novel that will put you right alongside Franny as she navigates a dangerous time in both her history and our history.</p>	<p>United States 1962</p>	<p>5 and up</p>	<p>377</p>

Title/Author	Synopsis	Setting	Gr Level	Pg. #
 <p>Revolution by Deborah Wiles</p> <p>Civil Rights Teaching Guide</p>	<p>It's 1964, and Sunny's town is being invaded. Or at least that's what the adults of Greenwood, Mississippi, are saying. All Sunny knows is that people from up north are coming to help people register to vote. They're calling it Freedom Summer.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Sunny can't help but feel like her house is being invaded, too. She has a new stepmother, a new brother, and a new sister crowding her life, giving her little room to breathe. And things get even trickier when Sunny and her brother are caught sneaking into the local swimming pool-- where they bump into a mystery boy whose life is going to become tangled up in theirs.</p> <p>As she did in her groundbreaking documentary novel COUNTDOWN, award-winning author Deborah Wiles uses stories and images to tell the riveting story of a certain time and place--and of kids who, in a world where everyone is choosing sides, must figure out how to stand up for themselves and fight for what's right.</p>	<p>United States 1964</p>	<p>5 and up</p>	<p>495</p>
 <p>There Are No Children Here: Raising Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America</p>	<p>This is the moving and powerful account of two remarkable boys struggling to survive in Chicago's Henry Horner Homes, a public housing complex disfigured by crime and neglect.</p>	<p>Chicago Contemporary</p>	<p>10 and up</p>	<p>323</p>
 <p>A Hope in the Unseen An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League RON SUSKIND</p>	<p>It is 1993, and Cedric Jennings is a bright and ferociously determined honor student at Ballou, a high school in one of Washington D.C.'s most dangerous neighborhoods, where the dropout rate is well into double digits and just 80 students out of more than 1,350 boast an average of B or better. At Ballou, Cedric has almost no friends. He eats lunch in a classroom most days, plowing through the extra work he</p>	<p>Washington, D.C./1993</p>	<p>10 and up</p>	<p>373</p>

<p>Hope in the Unseen: An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League by Ron Suskind</p>	<p>has asked for, knowing that he's really competing with kids from other, harder schools. Cedric Jennings's driving ambition—which is fully supported by his forceful mother—is to attend a top-flight college.</p> <p>In September 1995, after years of near superhuman dedication, he realizes that ambition when he begins as a freshman at Brown University. In this updated edition, A Hope in the Unseen chronicles Cedric's odyssey during his last two years of high school, follows him through his difficult first year at Brown, and now tells the story of his subsequent successes in college and the world of work.</p>			
 <p>Mountains Between Mountains: (Adapted for Young People): The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World By Tracy Kidder</p> <p>Teaching Guide</p>	<p>Tracy Kidder's critically acclaimed adult nonfiction work, Mountains Beyond Mountains has been adapted for young people by Michael French. In this young adult edition, readers are introduced to Dr. Paul Farmer, a Harvard-educated doctor with a self-proclaimed mission to transform healthcare on a global scale. Farmer focuses his attention on some of the world's most impoverished people and uses unconventional ways in which to provide healthcare, to achieve real results and save lives.</p>	<p>Haiti Contemporary</p>	<p>7 and up</p>	<p>272</p>
 <p>Esperanza</p>	<p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new</p>	<p>Mexico/California 1930s</p>	<p>5 and up</p>	<p>262</p>

<p>Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan</p>	<p>life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p>			
 <p>Cody Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein</p>	<p>Oct. 11th, 1943-A British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun.</p> <p>When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Her Nazi interrogators give her a simple choice: reveal her mission or face a grisly execution.</p> <p>As she intricately weaves her confession, Verity uncovers her past, how she became friends with the pilot Maddie, and why she left Maddie in the wrecked fuselage of their plane. On each new scrap of paper, Verity battles for her life, confronting her views on courage, failure and her desperate hope to make it home. But will trading her secrets be enough to save her from the enemy?</p> <p>A Michael L. Printz Award Honor book that was called "a fiendishly-plotted mind game of a novel" in <i>The New York Times</i>, <i>Code Name Verity</i> is a visceral read of danger, resolve, and survival that shows just how far true friends will go to save each other.</p>	<p>Europe 1940s</p>	<p>9 and up</p>	<p>339</p>
 <p>Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein (Companion to</p>	<p>While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious women's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery and friendship of her fellow prisoners. But will that be enough to endure the fate that's in store for her?</p> <p>Elizabeth Wein, author of the critically-acclaimed and best-selling <i>Code Name Verity</i>, delivers another stunning</p>	<p>Europe 1940s</p>	<p>360</p>	<p>368</p>

<p>"Code Name Verity)</p>	<p>WWII thriller. The unforgettable story of Rose Justice is forged from heart-wrenching courage, resolve, and the slim, bright chance of survival.</p>			
 <p>The Heart of a Chief by Joseph Bruchac</p>	<p>Chris's life is complicated. At school, he's been selected to lead a project on sports teams with Indian names. At home, on the Penacook reservation, the Indians are divided about building a casino. It would destroy the beautiful island Chris thinks of as his own. Is there anything one sixth-grade boy can do?</p>	<p>United States Contemporary</p>	<p>5 and up</p>	<p>153</p>
 <p>The Stars Beneath Our Feet by David Barclay Moore</p>	<p>A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death.</p> <p>It's Christmas Eve in Harlem, but twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul and his mom aren't celebrating. They're still reeling from his older brother's death in a gang-related shooting just a few months earlier. Then Lolly's mother's girlfriend brings him a gift that will change everything: two enormous bags filled with Legos. Lolly's always loved Legos, and he prides himself on following the kit instructions exactly. Now, faced with a pile of building blocks and no instructions, Lolly must find his own way forward. His path isn't clear--and the pressure to join a "crew," as his brother did, is always there. When Lolly and his friend are beaten up and robbed, joining a crew almost seems like the safe choice. But building a fantastical Lego city at the community center provides Lolly with an escape--and an unexpected bridge back to the world.</p>	<p>New York City--Harlem Contemporary</p>	<p>5 and up</p>	<p>294</p>