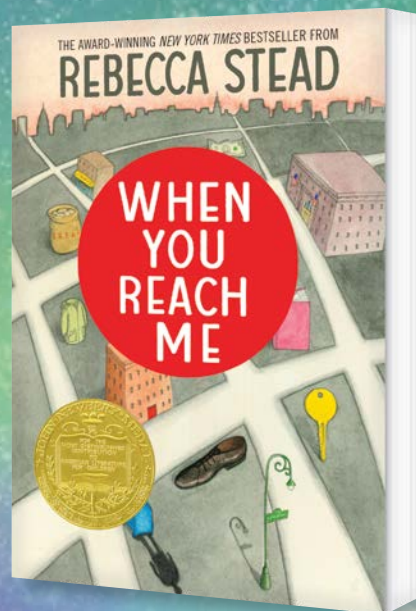
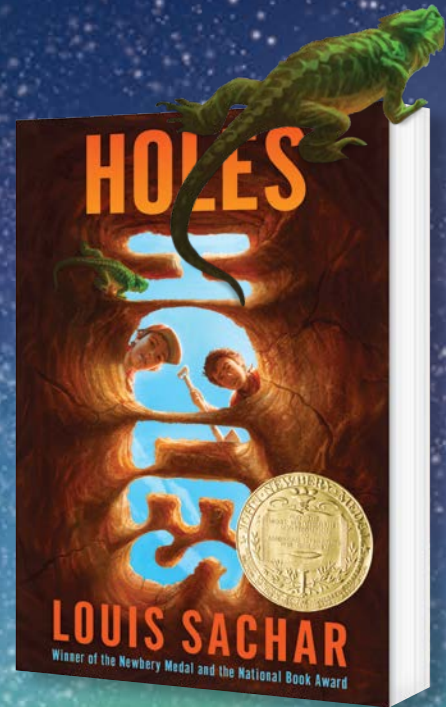


BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOOK GUIDE FOR MIDDLE-GRADE EDUCATORS



ESCAPE TO A NEW WORLD.

The story of a mysterious girl, a magical world, a dangerous journey, and the true meaning of friendship and family.

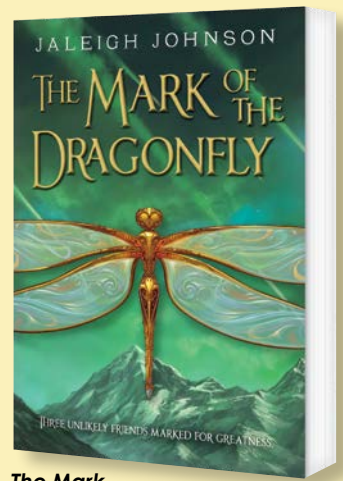
IN THE CLASSROOM

Divide the class into small groups to create an adventure map of the complex world Piper wanders through. Using details from the text, they should sketch a rough outline of Solace that includes (but is not limited to) major landmarks: the Merrow Kingdom, the Hiterian Mountains, the harvesting fields, the Meljoy lakes, Noveen, the Dragonfly Territories, the 401. Then have them draw and number a path on the map to illustrate the sequence of events of Piper's travels. Hint: the first chapter is a good place to revisit for map details!

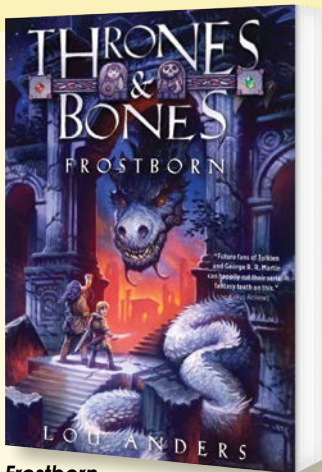
Correlates to Common Core Standards RL.5–7.2

After reading, have students craft a response to the following prompt: Is *The Mark of the Dragonfly* best categorized as an adventure or a fantasy novel? Encourage them to construct a clear thesis to drive their argument and introduce claims with relevant textual evidence. After they write and revise their arguments, divide the class into two teams for a debate.

Correlates to Common Core Standards CCSS W.5–7.1a–e; SL.5–7.1a–d



The Mark of the Dragonfly
Jaleigh Johnson
Grades 5 & up • ♫
Lexile: 820L • F&P: Z
PB: 978-0-385-37647-1
HC: 978-0-385-37615-0
EL: 978-0-385-37646-4
MarkoftheDragonfly.com



Frostborn
Lou Anders
Grades 3–7 • ♫
Lexile: 660L • F&P: W
PB: 978-0-385-38781-1
HC: 978-0-385-38778-1
GLB: 978-0-385-38779-8
EL: 978-0-385-38780-4
ThronesandBones.com

This first book in a humorous, Viking-inspired fantasy-adventure series will appeal to fans of Lloyd Alexander and Rick Riordan.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Divide into pairs with one person playing the part of Karn and one person playing the part of Thianna. Write a profile of your character, listing his/her strengths and weaknesses. Choose a scene from the book to act out in character. Pick an incident from school life and describe how your character would react.

Correlates to Common Core Standards RL.4–6.1; RL.4–6.3; W.4–6.9; SL.4–6.1

Make your own game of Thrones and Bones, laying out the game board as described at the end of the book. Try playing the game according to the rules listed in that section. Then list some examples of when Karn uses his gaming skills to escape a difficult situation in the book. Discuss how the game is a metaphor for life. Visit ThronesandBones.com to download a game template for your class.

Correlates to Common Core Standards RL.4–6.5

Young Lyra Belacqua journeys to the far North to save her best friend and other kidnapped children from terrible experiments by evil scientists.

IN THE CLASSROOM

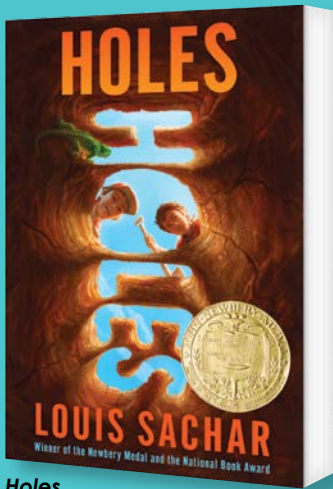
It is quite common for writers of fantasy to create their own vocabularies. Vocabulary, including the names of characters, is often symbolic of the underlying themes and messages of the story. Make a class glossary for Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy that represents the unique vocabulary he created.

In the trilogy, Lyra has the alethiometer, Will has the knife, and Dr. Malone has the spyglass to aid them in their quests. Though these items are fictitious, scientists have always used tools and instruments to conduct investigations. Have students research instruments used throughout the ages and construct a timeline that reveals their development. What instruments do scientists use today?



The Golden Compass
Philip Pullman
Grades 5 & up • ♫
Lexile: 930L
PB: 978-0-440-41832-0
HC: 978-0-679-87924-0
EL: 978-0-440-41860-3
HisDarkMaterials.com

SOLVE A PUZZLE.



Holes
Louis Sachar
Grades 4–7 • 🎧
Lexile: 660L • F&P: V
PB: 978-0-440-41480-3
EL: 978-0-307-79836-7
LouisSachar.com

Stanley Yelnats tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Ask the class: What is the significance of Stanley's real name and nickname in the novel? What is the significance of other characters' names and nicknames? What kinds of nicknames do the people in your life have and how do these nicknames impact them?

Have the class design two different uniforms for the children at Camp Green Lake. In one version, they should use symbolic imagery and text to depict what they believe Camp Green Lake should do for the children sentenced there. In the other version, they should depict the reality of Camp Green Lake in the novel. Follow this up with a research project on the juvenile justice system in the United States or a discussion on what the students feel are the most effective ways to discipline and rehabilitate youth.

🔗 Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standard R.CCR.1

In New York City in 1979, twelve-year-old Miranda receives four mysterious notes that change her life forever.

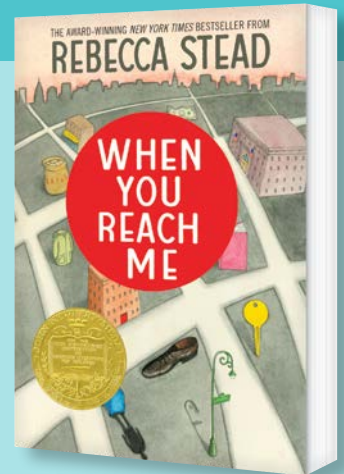
IN THE CLASSROOM

Discuss what the *New York Times* reviewer means when she calls *When You Reach Me* "a hybrid of genres." Ask students to discuss the definition of the following genres: science fiction, adventure, mystery, historical fiction, and realism. Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to prepare to debate which genre(s) they think the novel best fits. Have them cite passages from the novel to support their position.

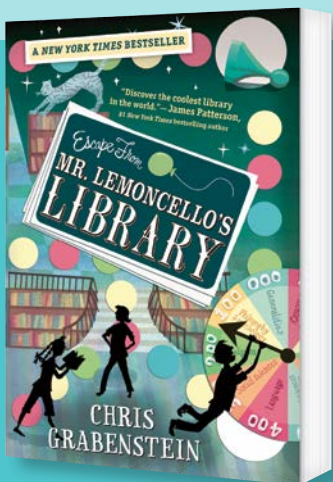
🔗 Correlates to Common Core Standards RL. 4–6.1; RL. 4–6.2; SL.4–6.1

The novel is set in the 1970s, before kids had cell phones and computers. Suppose the novel was set today. Have the class write Facebook profile pages for Miranda, Sal, Annemarie, Julia, Colin, Marcus, and Alice Evans.

🔗 Correlates to Common Core Standards RL. 4–3



When You Reach Me
Rebecca Stead
Grades 3–7 • 🎧
Lexile: 750L • F&P: W
PB: 978-0-375-85086-8
HC: 978-0-385-73742-5
RebeccaStead.com



Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library
Chris Grabenstein
Grades 3–7 • 🎧 • Lexile: 720L
PB: 978-0-307-93147-4
HC: 978-0-375-87089-7
GLB: 978-0-375-97089-4
EL: 978-0-307-97496-9
ChrisGrabenstein.com

It's the ultimate game—locked in a library overnight, twelve kids need to solve brain-teasing puzzles in order to escape!

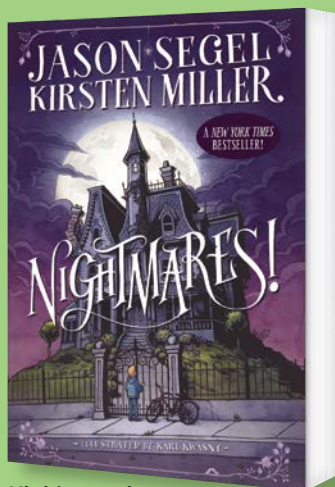
IN THE CLASSROOM

Contestants in *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library* attempt to solve rebus puzzles to help them escape from the library. Have students each create a rebus puzzle based on the title of a book, and encourage them to try to solve as many as they can.

Mr. Lemoncello spends \$500 million to build his dream library. While your hometown may not be in dire need of a new library, there is probably something that could be built to make it a better community for kids. Have your students write letters to your local leadership (city council members, township trustees, etc.) with the purpose of convincing them to make the addition to the city. Mail the letters or have students speak at a public meeting.

🔗 Correlates to Common Core Anchor Standards CCRA.W.1, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.SL.6

FACE YOUR FEARS.



Nightmares!

Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller;
Illustrated by Karl Kwasny
Grades 3–7 •
Lexile: 670L • F&P: U
PB: 978-0-385-74426-3
HC: 978-0-385-74425-6
GLB: 978-0-375-99157-8
EL: 978-0-385-38403-2
NightmaresNovel.com

Sleeping has never been so scary. And now waking up is even worse! This is the first book in a trilogy about a group of kids who must face their fears to save their town.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Divide the class into small groups that will each create an original script using a chapter from *Nightmares!* as inspiration. Here are some scene suggestions:

- Alfie, Rocco, or Paige facing his or her nightmare
- Charlie's first encounter with the witch
- Dabney rescuing Charlie when he first enters the Netherworld
- Charlie's late-night conversation with his stepmonster

Allow the groups ample time to assign parts, rehearse, and create costumes, props, and sets before showtime!

Play "Name That Nightmare!" Prepare several labels naming various nightmares, such as the bogeyman, zombies, vampire bunnies, your teeth falling out, clowns, spiders, or aliens. Stick a label on each student's back. When you begin the game, students must mingle and ask each other yes-or-no questions to figure out their own identity.

Seven kids. Seven voices. One special teacher who will bring them together.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Readers see all the students mature and grow throughout the course of the novel. Ask your class: Based on your observations, which character do you believe demonstrates the greatest growth? Have students compose a short persuasive essay offering their position on this issue, using textual evidence to support their case.

Correlates to Common Core Standards W.6.1.–6.3

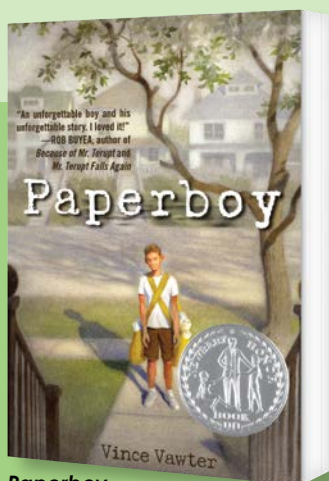
Because of Mr. Terupt is told from a first-person, multiple-narrator perspective. Ask the class: How would the stories be different if there were a single narrator telling it? Do you think changing or limiting the point of view would make the story better or worse? Why? Give textual evidence.

Correlates to Common Core Standards S.L.6.1.—6.3.



Because of Mr. Terupt

Rob Buyea
Grades 4–7 • Lexile: 560L
PB: 978-0-375-85824-6
HC: 978-0-385-73882-8
EL: 978-0-375-89615-6
RobBuyea.com



Paperboy

Vince Vawter
Grades 5 & up •
Lexile: 940L • F&P: Z
PB: 978-0-307-93151-1
HC: 978-0-385-74244-3
GLB: 978-0-375-99058-8
EL: 978-0-307-97505-8
VinceVawter.com

One summer changes the world for a boy who stutters.

IN THE CLASSROOM

An internal conflict is a problem or a dilemma that a character faces within him or herself. Ask students: What is the internal conflict within the boy? At what point is this conflict revealed? An external conflict is a thing or event that a character encounters as an obstacle. Identify the external conflicts in the novel. Explain how both internal and external conflicts change Little Man by the end of the summer.

Correlates to Common Core Standards RL.4–6.6; SL.4–6.1, 4–6.3; L.4–6.1, 4–6.3

Mr. Spiro encourages Little Man to continue writing poetry. Talk about the elements of an acrostic poem. Instruct students to use one of these words—student, servant, seller, or seeker—as a spine word and write a poem that Little Man might give to Mr. Spiro upon his return.

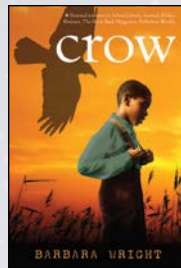
Correlates to Common Core Standards W.4–6.4

HISTORY

BE A MATCHMAKER—MATCH YOUR STUDENTS TO THE PERFECT BOOK!

Help to instill a love of reading in your students by recommending books based on their interests. In most cases, these clusters also provide you and your students an opportunity to compare and contrast stories in the same genre on their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Correlates to Common Core Standard RL.5.9



Crow
Barbara Wright
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 800L
PB: 978-0-375-87367-6
EL: 978-0-375-98270-5



The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel
Deborah Hopkinson
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 660LL • F&P: X
PB: 978-0-375-84308-2
HC: 978-0-375-84818-6
GLB: 978-0-375-94818-3
EL: 978-0-449-81819-0



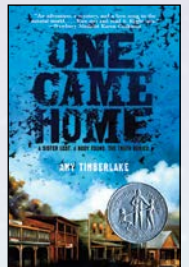
Hattie Big Sky
Kirby Larson
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 700L • F&P: W
PB: 978-0-385-73595-7
EL: 978-0-375-84641-0



Moon over Manifest
Clare Vanderpool
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 800L • F&P: U
PB: 978-0-375-85829-1
HC: 978-0-385-73883-5
EL: 978-0-375-89616-3

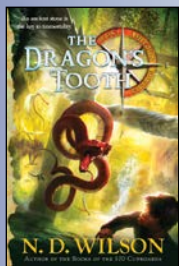


Navigating Early
Clare Vanderpool
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 790L • F&P: X
PB: 978-0-307-93065-1
HC: 978-0-385-74209-2
GLB: 978-0-375-99040-3
EL: 978-0-307-97412-9



One Came Home
Amy Timberlake
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 690L • F&P: Y
PB: 978-0-375-87345-4
HC: 978-0-375-86925-9
EL: 978-0-375-98934-6

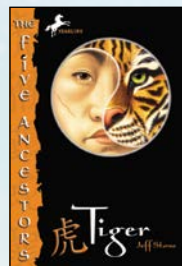
ADVENTURE



The Dragon's Tooth (Ashtown Burials #1)
N. D. Wilson
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 640L
PB: 978-0-375-86396-7
HC: 978-0-375-86439-1
EL: 978-0-375-89572-2



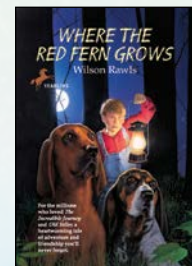
The Emerald Atlas
John Stephens
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 720L
PB: 978-0-375-87271-6
HC: 978-0-375-86870-2
EL: 978-0-375-89955-3



The Five Ancestors Book #1: Tiger
Jeff Stone
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 800L
PB: 978-0-375-83072-3
EL: 978-0-375-89179-3

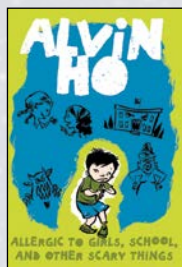


Joshua Dread
Lee Bacon
Grades 4-7 • • •
Lexile: 700L
PB: 978-0-307-92998-3
GLB: 978-0-375-99027-4
EL: 978-0-375-98721-2



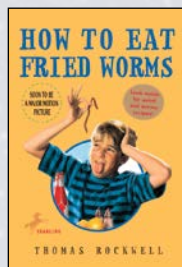
Where the Red Fern Grows
Wilson Rawls
Grades 4-7 • • •
Lexile: 700L • F&P: X
PB: 978-0-440-41267-0
HC: 978-0-385-32330-7
EL: 978-0-307-78156-7

HUMOR



Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

Lenore Look;
Illustrated by
LeYuen Pham
Grades 1-4 • • •
Lexile: 600L • F&P: Q
PB: 978-0-375-84930-5
HC: 978-0-375-83914-6
EL: 978-0-375-84965-7



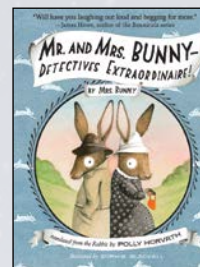
How to Eat Fried Worms

Thomas Rockwell
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 650L • F&P: R
PB: 978-0-440-44545-6



Lawn Boy

Gary Paulsen
Grades 3-7
Lexile: 780L
PB: 978-0-553-49465-5
EL: 978-0-307-53698-3



**Mr. and Mrs. Bunny—
Detectives
Extraordinaire!**

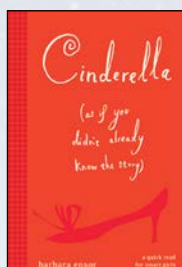
Polly Horvath
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 730L
PB: 978-0-375-86530-5
HC: 978-0-375-86755-2
EL: 978-0-375-89827-3



Skinnybones

Barbara Park
Grades 3-7
Lexile: 590L • F&P: P
PB: 978-0-679-88792-8
EL: 978-0-307-79710-0

RETELLINGS



**Cinderella (As If You
Didn't Already Know
the Story)**

Barbara Ensor
Grades 2-5
Lexile: 880L
PB: 978-0-375-87387-4
EL: 978-0-307-48295-2



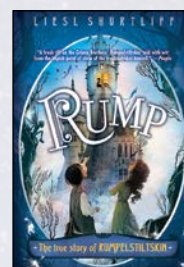
**The Fabled Fourth
Graders of Aesop
Elementary**

Candace Fleming
Grades 3-5 • • •
Lexile: 580L • F&P: Q
PB: 978-0-440-42229-7
EL: 978-0-307-48451-2



**Ophelia and the
Marvelous Boy**

Karen Foxlee
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 660L • F&P: T
PB: 978-0-385-75356-2
HC: 978-0-385-75354-8
EL: 978-0-385-75357-9



**Rump: The True Story
of Rumpelstiltskin**

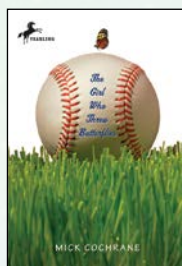
Liesel Shurtliff
Grades 3-7 • • •
Lexile: 660L
PB: 978-0-307-97796-0
HC: 978-0-307-97793-9
GLB: 978-0-307-97794-6
EL: 978-0-307-97795-3



Will in Scarlet

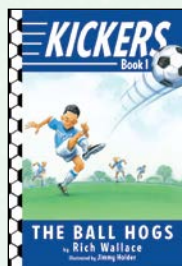
Mathew Cody
Grades 5 up • • •
Lexile: 840L • F&P: W
PB: 978-0-375-87292-1
HC: 978-0-375-86895-5
EL: 978-0-375-89980-5

SPORTS



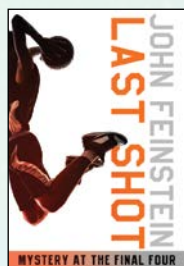
**The Girl Who Threw
Butterflies**

Mick Cochrane
Grades 3-7
Lexile: 750L
PB: 978-0-375-84610-6
EL: 978-0-375-89160-1



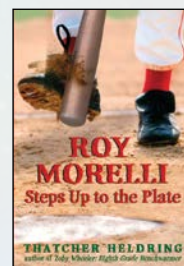
**Kickers #1: The Ball
Hogs**

Rich Wallace
Illustrated by
Jimmy Holder
Grades 1-4 • • •
Lexile: 540L
PB: 978-0-375-85092-9
EL: 978-0-375-89632-3



**Last Shot: A Final
Four Mystery**

John Feinstein
Grades 5 up • • •
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PB: 978-0-553-49460-0
EL: 978-0-307-53695-2



**Roy Morelli Steps Up
to the Plate**

Thatcher Heldring
Grades 3-7
Lexile: 530L
PB: 978-0-440-23978-9
EL: 978-0-375-89343-8



**The Walk On: The
Triple Threat, Book 1**

John Feinstein
Grades 5 up
Lexile: 780L • F&P: X
PB: 978-0-385-75349-4
HC: 978-0-385-75346-3
GLB: 978-0-385-75347-0
EL: 978-0-385-75348-7