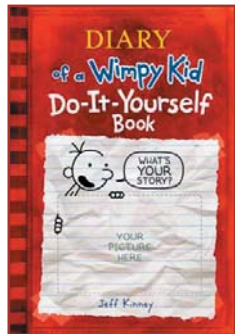
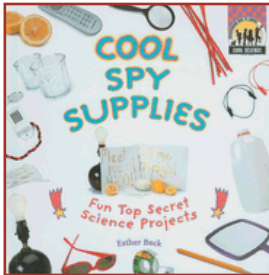


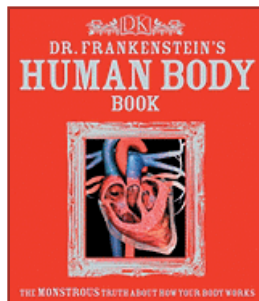
**Bad Kitty Gets a Bath**, by Nick Bruel. 9781596433410, \$13.95. The antics of the spectacularly misbehaved “Bad Kitty” continue in this early reader novel. Try reading it aloud to anyone of any age to inspire fits of giggles and real belly laughs. For anyone who loves cats AND every child who can’t put down *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.

**Cool Spy Supplies: Fun Top Secret Science Projects**, by Esther Beck. 9781599289113, \$24.21. This book of kitchen science for the young forensic scientist and/or sibling spy includes great projects to keep busy over the holiday break and beyond!

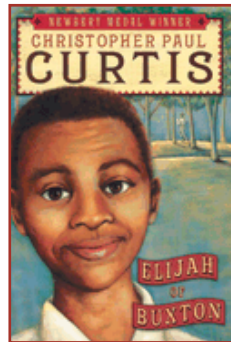


**Diary of a Wimpy Kid Do-It-Yourself Book**, by Jeff Kinney. 9780810983748, \$10.95. Kids will be inspired to record their own thoughts and drawings in this journal based on the popular series.

**Dr. Frankenstein’s Human Body Book**, by Richard Waler; illus. by Nick Abadzis. Dr. Frankenstein invites readers to join him as he creates a human being. But don’t be fooled – this is a non-fiction anatomy book, “as engrossing as any science fiction.” –*Publisher’s Weekly*. Ages 10+.

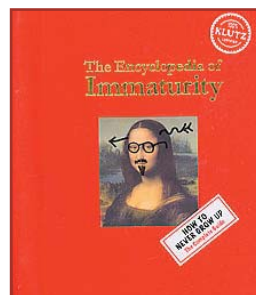


**Elephant Run**, by Roland Smith. 9781423104025, \$15.99. A thrilling and fast-paced adventure set in 1941 Burma, this book explores World War II and the fascinating world of wild timber elephants. Packed with excitement, this is historical fiction with genuine appeal for middle readers (and parents too). Ages 10+.

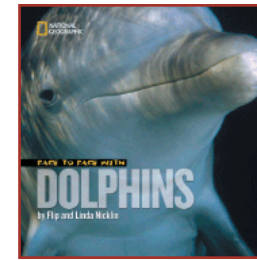


**Elijah of Buxton**, by Christopher Paul Curtis. 9780439023443, \$16.99. Newbery award winning Curtis, one of the most amazing storytellers of the century, weaves a fascinating tale of slavery set in 1850s Canada, just over the border from Detroit. The story moves from the narrator throwing up on Frederick Douglass as a baby, to the theft of money intended to buy freedom.

**Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat**, by Lynne Jonell. 9780805081503, \$17.95. A talking classroom rat, absentee parents, and a cold-hearted nanny named Miss Barmy are making things challenging for Emmy. A hilarious, thrilling, magical mystery-adventure!



**The Encyclopedia of Immaturity**, by the editors of Klutz. 9781591744276, \$19.95. You’re never too old to be immature! This book is full of silly pranks and entertainments guaranteed to keep your young (and old!) ones amused over the holidays.



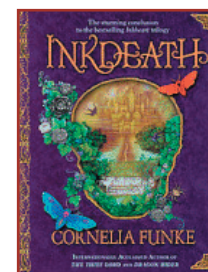
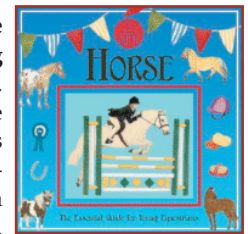
**Face to Face with Animals series** (various authors). \$16.95 each. These beautiful books from National Geographic feature amazing photographs and engaging text for a look into the world of various animals. *Frogs, Dolphins, Grizzlies* and *Wolves* are some of the titles in the series.

**Found** (*The Missing* series, #1), by Margaret Peterson Haddix. 9781416954170, \$15.99. When Jonah and his friend start getting letters saying, “you are one of the missing,” the boys, along with Jonah’s sister, are caught up in a mystery involving the FBI, vanishing planes and vanishing people. The first in what promises to be a great series, this is captivating, intelligent science fiction/mystery for ages 10-12.



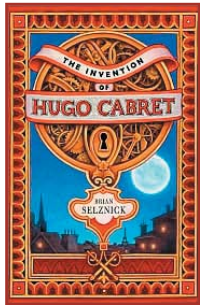
**Home of the Brave**, by Katherine Applegate. 9780312367657, \$16.95. This book gives us a glimpse into our world with fresh eyes - eyes that have not seen books, schools, food – or freedom. Ages 10+.

**Horse: The Essential Guide for Young Equestrians**, by Libby Hamilton. 9780763635473, \$15.99. For the horse lover in your family, this book is informative and fun, featuring lift-the-flaps, inserts, and a flip book.



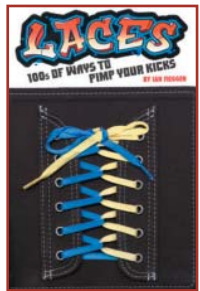
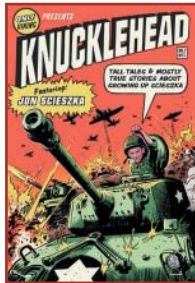
**Inkdeath**, by Cornelia Funke (*Inkheart Trilogy*, #3). 9780439866286, \$24.99. As Bluejay - Mo’s fictitious double - tries to keep the *Book of Immortality* from unraveling, Ad-derhead kidnaps all the children in the kingdom, asking for Bluejay’s surrender or the children will be doomed to slavery in the mines.





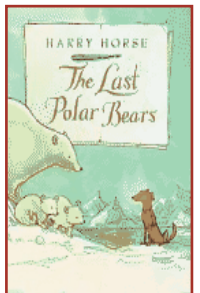
**The Invention of Hugo Cabret**, by Brian Selznick. 9780439813785, \$22.99. This 2008 Caldecott-winning book is a keeper. The pictures are fantastic. When twelve-year-old Hugh, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories of Growing Up Scieszka**. 9780670011063, \$16.99. Jon Scieszka lures reluctant boy readers with comic book appeal, graphics, photographs, and personal glimpses into his boyhood.



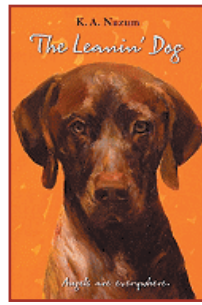
**Laces: 100s of Ways to Pimp Your Kicks**, by Ian Fieggen. 9781402752018, \$14.95. Tired of tying your shoes the same ol' way? This book shows you lots of creative new ways to customize your footwear using different kinds of laces and tying techniques.

**The Last Girls of Pompeii**, by Kathryn Lasky. 9780670061969, \$15.99. Twelve-year-old Julia, daughter of a wealthy ship-builder in Pompeii, is a social outcast due to her withered arm. But the friendship of her beautiful life-long slave, Mitka, is the one thing she can count on - until both girls learn that their futures are about to change for the worse.



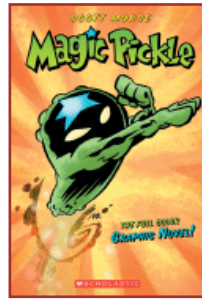
**The Last Polar Bears**, by Harry Horse. 9781561453795, \$12.95. Grandfather and his dog Roo set sail on the good ship *Unsinkable* to find the last polar bears. Will they survive this perilous voyage? Will they find any polar bears?

**The Leanin' Dog**, by K.A. Nuzum. 9780061139345, \$15.99. A warm-hearted story about the friendship between an eleven-year-old girl and a stray dog.



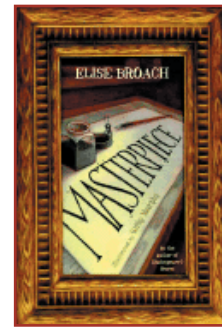
**The Lump of Coal**, by Lemony Snicket; illus. by Brett Helquist. 9780061574283, \$12.99. A Christmas story with a twist, sure to meet the approval of readers in Lemony Snicket's (un)usual manner.

**Magic Pickle**, by Scott Morse; illus. by Jose Garibaldi. 9780439879958, \$9.99 (PB). When Weapon Kosher, the Magic Pickle, erupts from her bedroom floor, young Jo Jo Wigman works with him to stop the Brotherhood of Evil Produce from taking over the world. The funniest graphic novel ever to feature a pickle!



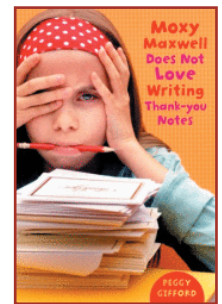
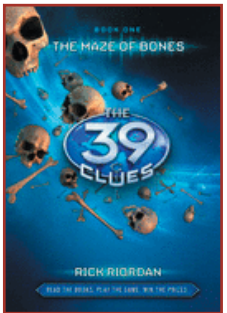
**The Magic Thief**, by Sarah Prineas. 9780061375873, \$16.99. A thieving guttersnipe finds himself apprenticed to a magician, and is drawn into a battle to save the magical city of Wellmet from the dastardly schemes of an evil villain. Gripping, surprising, and ultimately satisfying! First in a series.

**Make It!** by Jane Bull. 9780756638375, \$14.99. From trash to treasure, this guide to creating fun stuff for kids is full of colorful photographs of children making things from materials usually thrown away. A timely book which encourages us to recycle and help our planet.



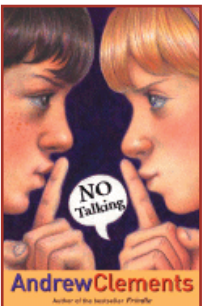
**Masterpiece**, by Elise Broach; illus. by Kelly Murphy. 9780805082708, \$16.95. A lonely 11-year-old boy and a brave beetle team up in this story by a Connecticut author about friendship and great art. Black and white illustrations enhance the text.

**The Maze of Bones**, by Rick Riordan (39 Clues series). 9780545060394, \$12.99. This first book of a projected ten-part series by multiple high-profile authors is packed full of adventure and mystery as readers are invited to join a worldwide search for 39 clues that would make them the most powerful people in the world. The books, along with collectible cards and an online game, make for an immersive experience. Also look for Book 2, *One False Note* by Gordon Korman. Ages 7-12 - great for boys AND girls!

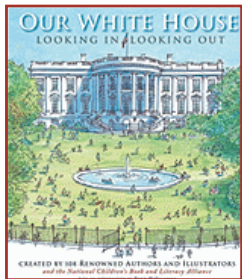


**Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank You Notes**, by Peggy Gifford. 9780375842702, \$12.99. Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father - but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos. Sequel to last year's equally wonderful *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little*.

**No Talking**, by Andrew Clements. 9781416909835, \$15.99. It's boys versus girls in the contest of no talking - and no one will win the war if Principal Hiatt and the teachers have their way! An entertaining and thought-provoking book.



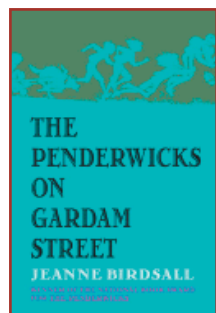
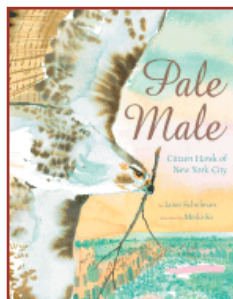




**Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out**, by the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. 9780763620677, \$29.99. More than 100 leading authors and illustrators donated their talents to this collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry which looks at America's history

through the prism of the White House.

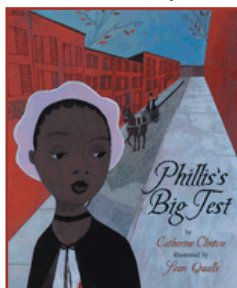
**Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City**, by Janet Schulman; illus. by Meilo So. 9780375845581, \$16.99. This exquisitely illustrated book tells the true story of Pale Male, the red-tailed hawk determined to make a home on Fifth Avenue. Pale Male inspired many New Yorkers with his strong will and beauty; readers will be inspired as well.



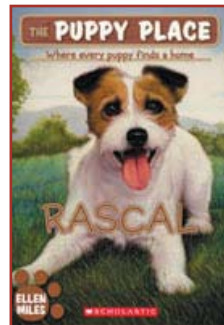
**The Penderwicks on Gardam Street**, by Jeanne Birdsall. 9780375840906, \$15.99. When we first met the Penderwicks, the four girls and their widowed father were enjoying summer in the Berkshires. Now they are home, and father is reluctantly beginning to date. The horrified girls try to sabotage his plans, but he has a trick up his sleeve! A new neighbor,

her little boy, and a mysterious stranger provide some excitement in this charming sequel to a beloved "new classic."

**Phillis's Big Test**, by Catherine Clinton; illus. by Sean Qualls. 9780618737390, \$16.00. This picture book for older readers introduces Phillis Wheatley, one of the first Black American poets. Taught to read by the family that purchased her as a young girl, the talented, humble, proud Phillis let her talent speak for itself at a time when black people were not supposed to be literate.

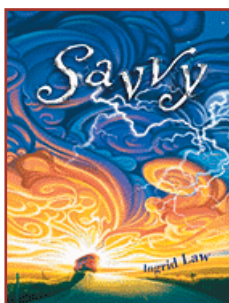
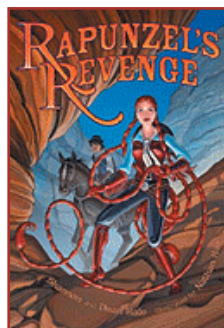


**The Puppy Place series**, by Ellen Miles. \$4.99 each (PB). This fiction series, each featuring a different dog breed, teaches children to care for animals - and the puppies are so cute, you'll want to give them a pooch smooch!

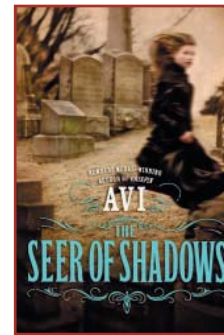


**The Puzzling World of Winston Breen**, by Eric Berlin. 9780399246937, \$16.99. Winston Breen finds puzzles everywhere, and solving them is what he does best. But when his sister finds mysterious wooden strips with words and letters inside a box, even Winston is stumped. It turns out the strips are part of a scavenger hunt that a town patriarch set up for his children. If all four sets are put together, they will lead to a ring worth thousands of dollars. Who has the other pieces? Get ready for a one-of-a-kind scavenger hunt!

**Rapunzel's Revenge**, by Shannon & Dean Hale; illus. by Nathan Hale. 97891599900704, \$18.99. The first graphic novel by popular author Shannon Hale, who worked with husband Dean Hale and illustrator Nathan Hale (no relation) to create a spectacular retelling of *Rapunzel in the Wild* West! Ages 10+.



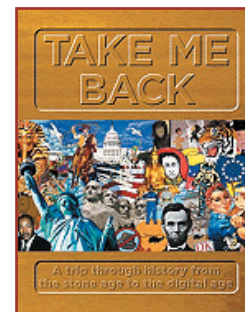
**Savvy**, by Ingrid Law. 9780803733060, \$16.99. At the age of thirteen, Mibs Beaumont will discover her "savvy" - a magical power unique to each member of her family. But news of an accident sends the Beaumont siblings off on a wild adventure.



**The Seer of Shadows**, by Avi. 9780060000158, \$16.99. This suspenseful and often scary story is set in 1872 New York City. Horace Carpentine is an apprentice to a photographer who wants to deceive a wealthy customer. As Horace takes his first photos, a ghost set on getting revenge on her cruel parents begins to come back to life.

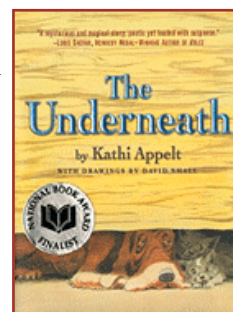
**Simon Bloom, The Gravity Keeper**, by Michael Reisman. 9780525479222, \$15.99. Out of thin air, a book falls onto Simon Bloom's head. But *The Teacher's Edition of Physics* isn't just any book - it's a magical reference book with formulas that control the laws of the universe. Of course a cool book like this has evil forces after it, and Simon and his friends must protect it.

Science, humor and fast-paced action make this book great fun for ages 10-12.



**Take Me Back**, by DK Publishing. 9780756640903, \$24.99. Enjoy this chronological exploration of the people and events that have shaped societies through time - from Mesopotamia to Mao, the Incas to Iraq, the Spartans to the Space Shuttle - with bold, zany, and irreverent sources.

**The Underneath**, by Kathi Appelt. 9781416950585, \$16.99. A very unusual, emotional story of friendships formed between a dog, a cat and her two kittens. At times tragic, the book does not turn away from some stark realities, but never wavers from its message of loyalty. A 2008 National Book Award finalist.

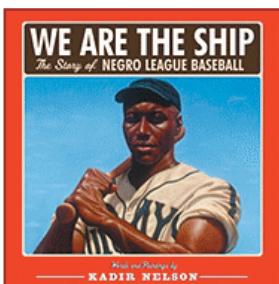




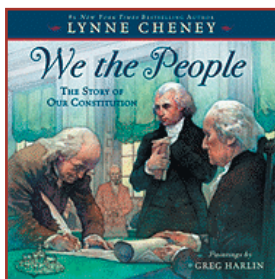
**Waiting for Normal**, by Leslie Connor. 9780060890889, \$16.99. After her parents divorce, Addie moves into a run-down trailer with her unpredictable mother - but she remains optimistic, making friends and hoping that someday she will enjoy a normal family life. Ages 10+.

**We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball**, by Kadir Nelson. 9780786808328, \$18.99.

Nelson traces the history of Negro League baseball from its beginnings in the 1920s through its decline after Jackie Robinson crossed over to the majors in 1947. Illustrated with oil paintings, this is a welcome addition to the library of any baseball lover.

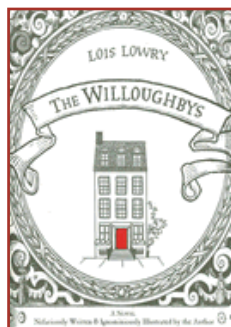


**We the People: The Story of Our Constitution**, by Lynne Cheney; illus. by Greg Harlin. 9781416954187, \$17.99. Describes the difficulties faced by a young



nation after the Revolutionary War, as delegates come together in 1787 to discuss the rules upon which the U.S. would be built. Every page of this beautiful book is accompanied by a quote from a person involved in the process, making history come alive.

**The Willoughbys**, by Lois Lowry. 9780618979745, \$16.00. The four Willoughby children are well-meaning, but they are a nuisance to their terrible parents, who would love the chance to escape ... permanently. What Mr. & Mrs. Willoughby don't realize is that while they are trying to rid themselves of their children, the children are trying to rid themselves of their parents!



## Contributors

- Carol M. Ansel, Pine Point School Library, Stonington
- Jane Ash, Children's Librarian, Scranton Library, Madison
- Heather Baker, Head of Children's Services, Canton Public Library
- Tess Beck, Children's Librarian, Stratford Library Association
- Margaret Brown, Young Adult Librarian, & the Y.A. Council, C.H. Booth Library, Newtown
- Cheryl Donahue, Head of Children's Services, Simsbury Public Library
- Deborah Fleet, Library Director, Voluntown Public Library
- Maris Frey, Children's Librarian, Stonington Free Library
- Monica Gardner, Library Media Specialist, Eastbury Elementary School, Glastonbury
- Dymphna Harrigan, Teen Librarian, Danbury Library
- Sherelle Harris, Manager of Branch Children's Services, Norwalk Public Library
- Barbara Klipper, Youth Services Librarian, The Ferguson Library, Stamford
- Vida Lashgari, Children's Services, Farmington Library
- Nadine Lipman, Head of Children's Services, Waterford Public Library
- Judy Locker, Windsor Public Library
- Suzanne Maryeski, Head of Children's Services, Farmington Library
- Laurie Meheran, Children's Services, Burlington Public Library
- Paula Montes, Children's Services, Farmington Library
- Janet P. Murphy, Children's Specialist, West Hartford Public Library, Bishops Corner Branch
- Jennifer Needham, Head of Children's Services, Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry
- Renee Pease, Children's Services Librarian, Welles-Turner Memorial Library, Glastonbury
- Anne Porier, Library Media Specialist, Moses Y. Beach Elementary School, Wallingford
- Judy Rabin, Children's Librarian, Woodbridge Town Library
- Christine Sarrazin, Web Librarian, Connecticut Library Consortium
- Carrie G. Seiden, Library Media Specialist, Totoket Valley Elementary School, Northford
- Martha Simpson, Head of Children's Services, Stratford Library Association
- Cris Staubach, Head of Youth Services, Public Library of New London
- Claudette Stockwell, Children's Librarian Assistant, Killingly Public Library
- Ann Szaley, Children's Librarian, Seymour Public Library
- Brienne Tripp, Children's Services, Wethersfield Library
- Bina Williams, Children's Librarian, Bridgeport Public Library

# Best Books for Middle Readers (ages 8-12)

A list for holiday giving



Recommended by Connecticut's Children's Librarians

2008



CT Library Consortium  
234 Court Street  
Middletown, CT 06457  
860-344-8777  
clc@ctlibrarians.org  
www.ctlibrarians.org