Citation:

Annotation:
Molly and Kip were only looking for a job to make enough money to get back to mom and dad, while on the road the two meet with a storyteller who warns them about the sour woods and the dark secrets that surround Windsor House.

Booktalk:
Windsor Estate, long known for its extravagant inhabitants, has called Molly and Kip into its fold as the newest housekeepers for the Windsor family. Not long after arriving and settling into jobs, eerie happenings begin. Who is leaving muddy footprints and leaves in the hallways, who is behind the mounds in the yard and why is that door upstairs always locked? Was the storyteller along the road just telling them stories or was she warning them of the things to come?

Reviews:
School Library Journal, starred 04/01/14
Kirkus Reviews, starred 05/01/14
Booklist 06/01/14
VOYA, starred 04/01/14

Website:
http://www.thescop.com/

Other Books by Jonathan Auxier:
*Peter Nimble and his Fantastic Eyes*
*Sophie Quire and the Last StoryGuard*
Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas
By Lynne Cox

Citation:

Annotation:
When Elizabeth, an elephant seal in Christchurch, New Zealand, decides to sun herself across a busy road, local residents volunteer to move her back out to sea. But despite the volunteers’ repeated efforts, Elizabeth always finds her way back home.

Booktalk:
Michael lives in Christchurch, New Zealand and is fascinated by an elephant seal named Elizabeth. When Elizabeth begins to sun herself on a busy road, residents volunteer to move her to an elephant seal colony. After she makes her way back, they try to relocate her two more times. The people loved Elizabeth, and so they put up a bright yellow sign that said: Slow elephant seal crossing. There is a fact page about elephant seals, and an actual photograph of the real Elizabeth.

Reviews:
Booklist, starred 05/15/14
Hornbook 10/01/14
School Library Journal 05/01/14
Kirkus Reviews 04/15/14

Website:
http://www.indypl.org/kids/blog/?p=20107

Memories of Avon River’s sea elephant
**Mr. Ferris and His Wheel**
By Kathryn Gibbs Davis

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
America wanted something spectacular to feature at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair and an eccentric young mechanical engineer had an idea that would dazzle the world. George Ferris’ invention is a favorite of many; find out how his famous wheel came to be.

**Book Talk:**
In 1889, Paris built the Eiffel Tower for the World’s Fair, in 1893 it is Chicago and America’s turn to host the fair and they are determined to build something better. George Ferris wins a nationwide contest with a design of a wheel that will rise 265 feet into the air and provide a breathtaking ride for fair visitors. He had to overcome great obstacles and use his own money to have the wheel ready by opening day. Powered by underground steam engines and lit by the newly invented electric lights, the ride mystified and amazed fairgoers and was a huge success.

**Reviews:**
Booklist, starred 06/01/14
Kirkus Reviews 07/15/14
Library Media Connection, starred 11/01/14
School Library Journal 06/01/14

**Website:**
http://gibbsdavis.com

Teacher’s Guide
http://gibbsdavis.com/images/pdfs/TG_Mr._Ferris_and_his_Wheel.pdf#zoom=70

**Also by Kathryn Gibbs Davis:**
*Wackiest White House Pets*
*Money Madness*
*Camp Sink or Swim*
The Fourteenth Goldfish
By Jennifer Holm

Citation:

Annotation:
Eleven-year-old Ellie’s life is turned upside down when her scientist grandfather discovers the secret to eternal youth, turns himself into a teenager and moves in with Ellie and her mom.

Booktalk:
Eleven-year-old Ellie has just started middle school and things aren’t going so well. She feels like she is losing her best friend, and she just wants everything to go back to the way it was before. Just when she thinks it can’t get worse, Ellie’s scientist grandfather Melvin turns himself into a teenager during an experiment and moves in with Ellie and her mom. Now it’s up to Ellie and her new friend Raj to help Melvin get back in his lab to retrieve the experiment before it ends up in the wrong hands. But first they’ll have to find someone old enough to drive!

Reviews:
School Library Journal 06/01/14
Booklist, starred 07/01/04
Kirkus Reviews 07/01/14
New York Times Book Review 08/24/14
VOYA starred 08/01/14

Readalikes:
Eye of the Storm by Kate Messner
Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar
Circa Now by Amber McRee Turner

Author/book website
http://www.jenniferholm.com/

Also by Jennifer Holm:
The Babymouse Series
The Boston Jane Series
The Comics Squad Series
Eighth Grade is Making Me Sick: Ginny Davis’s Year in Stuff
Full of Beans
Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff
Dash
By Kirby Larson

Citation:

Annotation:
When World War II breaks out, Mitzi and her family, Japanese Americans, enter an internment camp and leave behind most of their possessions, including Mitzi's beloved dog, Dash.

Booktalk:
After Pearl Harbor, Mitzi notices people begin treating her differently because she and her family are Japanese Americans. Before long, her family is forced to leave their home behind, only taking what they can carry. That means she can't take her beloved dog, Dash, with her because of the "No Pets Allowed" rule. Mitzi leaves Dash with a neighbor who writes letters from "Dash" to Mitzi while she's gone. Life changes for the family at the internment camp as they live in crowded conditions. Will she and her family still be close at the end of the war and will Mitzi be allowed to see Dash again? To find out, read Dash by Kirby Larson.

Readalikes:
Duke by Kirby Larson (companion novel)
Sylvia and Aki by Winifred Conkling

Reviews:
School Library Journal 06/01/14
Kirkus Reviews, starred 06/15/14
Publishers Weekly, starred 06/01/14
Booklist 07/01/14

Author Website:
http://www.kirbylarson.com

Also by Kirby Larson:
Audacity Jones to the Rescue
Duke (companion novel to Dash)
Hattie Big Sky
Hattie Ever After
The Fences Between Us
The Friendship Doll
Nubs
Two Bobbies
Bitty Baby Series
Citation:

Annotation:
Lucy’s father is a famous photographer who is always away on assignment. When Lucy discovers he is the judge of a photo contest for young people, she decides to enter in an effort to win her father’s approval.

Book talk:
Moving again! Lucy gets so frustrated with her parents, especially her dad, who is a famous photographer. He is never around for all the adjustments that come with a move, he just takes his cameras and goes to another assignment. So when Lucy finds out he is going to judge a youth photo contest, she enters anonymously in an effort to win his approval. But as she shoots her photos, she finds out there is more to see from behind the lens than she expected.

Reviews:
Booklist 02/15/14
Kirkus Reviews starred, 12/15/13
Library Media Connection, starred 10/01/14
School Library Journal, starred 02/01/14

Website:
http://www.cynthialord.com/

Look at her Live Journal posts for some great pictures that connect with this book.

Other books by Cynthia Lord:
*Rules*
*Touch Blue*
*A Handful of Stars*
Rain Reign
By Ann M. Martin

Citation:

Annotation:
Rose struggles to make friends at school, but quickly bonds with a dog her father brings home. Keeping her dog, Rain, safe forces Rose to adventure outside her daily routine.

Booktalk:
Rose Howard has Asperger's and is obsessed with homonyms! Her dad, her teachers, and especially her classmates do not understand Rose’s rules about life. Often, she finds herself alone until her father brings home a dog that she promptly names Rain because, of course, it is a homonym. Sadly, Rain gets lost! Read Rain Reign by Ann Martin to find out if Rose and Rain find each other.

Reviews:
School Library Journal 8/1/14
Booklist, starred 8/1/14
Kirkus Reviews, starred 09/01/14
Horn Book Guide starred, 4/1/15
ALA Notable Books for Children, Middle Readers

Website:
https://www.scholastic.com/annmartin/about/

Also by Ann M. Martin:
The Doll People
Belle Teal
A Dog’s Life: The Autobiography of a Stray
The Babysitter’s Club Series
Super Sniffers
By Dorothy Hinshaw Patent

Citation:

Annotation:
Everyone knows that dogs have great sniffers, but the jobs and partnerships that dogs have may surprise you.

Book Talk:
Do you love dogs? This book is full of great pictures and information about all the different ways dogs help others. They use their noses to help children who have allergies, finding environmental problems, even detecting drugs that have been hidden.

Reviews:
Booklist 09/15/14
Horn Book Guide 10/01/15
School Library Journal 07/01/14

Website:
http://www.dorothyhinshawpatent.com/

Also by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent:
Dogs on Duty: Soldiers’ Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond
Saving Audie: A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a Second Chance
Camas & Sage: A Story of Bison Life on the Prairie
The Call of the Osprey
Decorated Horses
When the Wolves Returned
Homesteading: Settling America’s Heartland
The Horse and the Plains Indians
Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina
By Rodman Philbrick

Citation:

Annotation:
While visiting family in New Orleans, Zane and his dog, Bandit, get caught in one of the worst disasters in American history. Hurricane Katrina brings death and destruction and leaves Zane and Bandit in a fight for survival.

Book Talk:
In an effort for Zane to get to know his deceased father’s family, his mother sends him to New Orleans to meet his great-grandmother. Little does she know that she is sending him into one of America’s worst disasters. The city is preparing for Hurricane Katrina when he arrives and through a series of mishaps, he finds himself and his dog, Bandit, lost in the city when the storm hits. How will Zane and Bandit survive the monster storm that leaves death and destruction in its wake?

Reviews:
Booklist 02/01/14
Kirkus Reviews, starred 12/15/13
Publishers Weekly, starred 11/25/13
School Library Journal, starred 02/01/14

Website:
http://www.rodmanphilbrick.com/

Also by Rodman Philbrick:
The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg
Freak the Mighty
Max the Mighty
The Fire Pony
The Last Book in the Universe
The Young Man and the Sea
The Doll Graveyard
By Lois Ruby

Citation:

Annotation:
Angry voices at night, a creepy dollhouse in the attic, and a doll graveyard, all make Shelby’s new house a chilling adventure.

Booktalk:
Mysteries are everywhere at Cinder Creek, a creepy old house that has been in the family for many centuries, which Shelby and her brother move into with their mother following their parents’ divorce. Especially creepy are the dolls that are buried in a tiny graveyard that won’t stay buried. Perfect for fans of classic spooky stories, this is scary enough for older kids and tame enough for younger readers.

Reviews:
Booklist 06/01/14
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 09/01/14
School Library Journal 05/01/14

Author Website
http://www.loisruby.com/
Quinny & Hopper
By Adriana Brad Schanen

Citation:

Annotation:
Quinny and Hopper, an eight year old boy and girl become good friends over the summer. But when the new school year begins, things suddenly are not the same.

Booktalk:
Quinny and Hopper are an eight year old girl and boy who become good friends over the summer. Quinny and Hopper couldn’t be more different. Quinny is loud and Hopper is quiet! They have endless adventures, such as trying to catch Freya, the chicken; climbing trees; and juggling. But when the summer ends and the new school year begins they find out about the new “Third Grade Rules,” that boys and girls aren’t allowed to be friends anymore.

Reviews:
Horn Book 10/1/14
Booklist 07/01/14
Kirkus Reviews 5/15/14
School Library Journal 5/1/14

Website:
http://www.adrianabradsschanen.com/books/

Author Interview
https://youtu.be/8-OD-5bgKeM

Also by Adriana Brad Schanen:
*Quinny & Hopper Partners in Slime* (October 2016)
Junction of Sunshine and Lucky
By Holly Schindler

Citation:

Annotation:
Auggie and her Grandpa Gus use junk to transform the appearance of their home but when her new friend’s father starts the Home Beautification Committee, Auggie and her grandfather find they have a different perception of beauty and art than the city council.

Booktalk:
August “Auggie” Jones lives with her Grandpa Gus, in a poor part of town. Auggie loves to see how her Grandpa, who hauls trash, turns junk into beautiful folk art. So when Gus and Auggie turn a broken toaster into a flower, church windows into a rainbow walkway, and an old car into spinning whirligigs and decorate their lawn with them, the entire neighborhood of Serendipity Place gets in on the act. They are surprised when the House Beautification Committee sends notices to everyone in their neighborhood for being in violation of city codes. Auggie and her grandpa discover a talent they never knew they had and readers will want to talk about what creativity and beauty mean to them.

Reviews:
School Library Journal 03/01/14
Horn Book 01/01/14
Kirkus Reviews 12/15/13
Library Media Connection 08/01/14

Website:
http://www.hollyschindler.com/

Official Book Trailer
https://youtu.be/eARaa8uzuhw

Other Books by Holly Schindler:
Wordquake Or: The Day Izzy Ashby Removed All the Words from Her Entire School
Eliza Bing is (Not) a Big, Fat Quitter
By Carmella Van Vleet

Citation:

Annotation:
After eleven-year-old Eliza, who has ADHD, learns she cannot take a cake decorating class with her best friend, partly because her parents consider her a quitter, Eliza tries to prove herself by sticking with a Tae Kwon Do class all summer. Along the way she learns about herself and her abilities.

Booktalk:
Eliza wants to be a cake decorator like her TV cooking show idol, Sweet Caroline, but when her parents tell her the cake decorating class is too expensive she comes up with a plan to take the Tae Kwon Do class her brother doesn’t want to finish. Even after being diagnosed with ADHD and taking her meds, Eliza still has trouble finishing things but her supportive parents give her good techniques to stay focused and to be socially appropriate and polite. The author includes Korean words and pronunciations at the end of the book.

Reviews:
Kirkus Reviews 02/15/14
School Library Journal 05/01/14
Horn Book 01/01/14
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 04/01/14

Website:
http://www.carmellavanvleet.com/

Other books by Carmella Van Vleet:
To the Stars!: The First American Woman to Walk in Space
Amazing Ben Franklin Inventions: You Can Build Yourself
Explore Ancient Greece!: 25 Great Projects, Activities, Experiments
Great Ancient Egypt Projects: You Can Build Yourself
The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond
By Brenda Woods

Citation:

Annotation:
Violet hates the way people look at her, the only brown-eyed brown-haired girl in a family of blondes, a brown leaf on a pile of snow until she meets her new “Bibi” and builds a relationship that expands her world and her definition of family.

Booktalk:
Violet lives with her mother and sister in a mostly white town. Growing up without her African American father has been hard, and at the age of eleven, Violet wants to know more about her father and her heritage. Violet arranges a meeting to see her “Bibi” (Swahili for “grandmother”) who she finds out lives in Los Angeles. Bibi is an artist who will be traveling to Seattle soon for an exhibit in the Museum of Art. In a room full of paintings, people, and hors d’oeuvres, Violet spots the artist Roxanne Diamond. She holds out her hand and announces, “I’m Violet, your granddaughter!”

Reviews:
School Library Journal, starred 03/01/14
Kirkus Reviews, starred 11/15/13
Booklist 12/01/13
Horn Book 07/01/14

Website:
http://www.brendawoods.net/

Other books by Brenda Woods:
The Red Rose Box
Emako Blue
My name is Sally Little Song
Zoey in Wonderland
Arcady’s Goal
By Eugene Yelchin

Citation:

Annotation:
Twelve-year-old Arcady is sent to a children’s home after his parents are declared enemies of the state in Soviet Russia. Soccer becomes a way to secure extra food, respect, and protection and could prove to be his way out, if he can learn to trust and eventually love another person.

Book Talk:
Orphanages are the only homes twelve-year-old Arcady has known since his parents were taken away by Soviet Russian officials just before the start of World War II, when he was a baby. Arcady’s talent playing soccer attracts the attention of Ivan Ivanych when he comes to the orphanage on the pretense of making an inspection. Ivan is actually looking for a boy to adopt. Yelchin begins this historical fiction novel with the photograph of the 1945 Red Army Soccer Club, of which his father is the captain.

Reviews:
Booklist 09/01/14
New York Times 11/07/14
School Library Journal 7/01/14
Horn Book Magazine 10/01/14

Website:
http://www.eugeneyelchinbooks.com/

Teacher’s Guide
http://mackidsbooks.com/teachers-guide-arcadys-goal/

Also by Eugene Yelchin:
Breaking Stalin’s Nose