2025 Intermediate Sequoyah Annotated Masterlist

Bow, Erin. *Simon Sort of Says*. New York: Disney Hyperion. 2023, 320 p. (Ages 8-12). Simon O’Keefe could be well known for many reasons - like for the alpaca disaster that went viral on YouTube, or when his dad gave a squirrel a holy sacrament. Instead, everyone remembers him for the one thing that Simon wants most to forget. He was the survivor of a school shooting. Two years later, his family moves to the National Quiet Zone - no TV, no internet. The town is focused on listening to signs of life in space, not on Simon’s past. With the help of new friends, a dog, and a telescope, Simon is determined to rewrite his story.

Dunlap, Sydney. *It Happened on Saturday*. Mendota Heights, Minnesota: Jolly Fish Press, 2023. 242 p. (Grades 7-9). A thirteen year old girl finds understanding and friendship from a boy online. What happens next could end up being the worst decision she ever makes. A cautionary tale that could end up saving a life.

Everett, Sarah. *The Probability of Everything*. Clarion Books: 2023. 336p. (Grades 3-7). With an 84.7% change that an asteroid heading straight for Earth will hit in just four days, 11-year-old scientist Kemi Carter builds a time capsule to honor each member of her family but struggles to find the perfect item to represent her dad’s true passion. As the world continues to spin despite the incoming catastrophe, Kemi finds that she is the only one taking their seemingly imminent demise seriously. The truth hits as hard as an asteroid would, with a heartbreaking yet hopeful conclusion.

Kuyatt, Meg Eden. *Good Different*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2023. 273 p. (Grades 3-7). Selay Godfrey has a hard time fitting in 7th grade. Even though she follows the rules for being “normal,” Selay knows that she’s different. Lights are too bright, sounds are too loud, and small touches are overwhelming. In this novel-in-verse, Selay learns how to advocate for herself and show that it’s okay to be different.

LoArango, A. (2023). *Something Like Home*. Random House Kids. 248 p. (Grades 5-9). Newbery Honor Book author, Arango write poignantly of the heartbreak and trauma of a child who lived with her parents’ addiction. Laura plans carefully how everything will go in her life. She tries to make sense of everything around her, and she also tries to get through each day without causing any trouble. Written in verse, Something Like Home reads quickly and is moving in the short bursts of revelation each page brings. As the reader learns the depth of Laura’s past home life, they come to realize that she is coping the best she can. It is an excellent realistic fiction title which will connect with middle grade readers on multiple levels.

Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year*. New York: Roaring Book Press, 2023. 354 p. (Grades 5-8). While quarantined at home during Covid with his mother and great grandma, Matthew finds an old photograph of his great grandma as a girl. This acts as a catalyst for her to share the story of her childhood in the Ukraine and the horrible famine that she survived.
Pla, Sally J. *The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn.* New York: Quill Tree Books. 2023, 336 p. (Ages 10 and up). Neurodivergent Maudie is excited to spend the summer with her dad in the California cabin that he built. But, a wildfire forces them to evacuate to the beach town where he grew up. Maudie watches the surfers on the ocean every day, but doesn’t feel brave enough to try. But, is she brave enough to tell her dad the horrible secret about her stepdad that her mom told her never to tell? And can she find a way to stay with her Dad forever before the summer is over?

Santat, Dan. *A First Time for Everything.* New York: First Second, 2023. 308 p. (Grades 4-6). While on a trip with other middle school students Dan makes memories experiencing some “first times” of love, friendship and opportunity. He also reminisces on other “first times” that have made him who he is.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Labors of Hercules Beal.* New York: Clarion Books, 2023. 347 p. (Grades 3-7). After the worst year of his life, Hercules Beal is given the task to complete the Twelve Labors of Hercules by his teacher. Somewhere in between capturing the ugly cat pack and rescuing a woman from a collapsed house, Hercules begins to realize that he doesn’t have to endure these labors alone.

Sheinkin, Steve. *Impossible Escape.* Roaring Brook Press: 2023. 256p. (Grades 8-12). Sheinkin delivers a gripping narrative that intertwines the courageous stories of Rudolf Vrba and Gerta Sidonová, Slovakian Jewish teenagers who defied the horrors of the Holocaust. Vrba's determination to evade deportation to Auschwitz led to a daring escape with Alfred Wetzler, culminating in the landmark Vrba-Wetzler report that saved countless lives. Seamlessly blending historical context with personal narratives, "Impossible Escape" is an essential addition to Holocaust literature, resonating with relevance and urgency in today’s world.

Swinarski, Claire. *What Happened to Rachel Riley.* New York: HarperCollins. 2023, 352 p. (Ages 8 and up). Anna Hunt has been given an assignment to cover something important to her. While deciding on the topic for her assignment she notices how everyone in the school ignores one student; Rachel Riley. Told in a series of interviews, emails, and narrative Anna investigates what happened to Rachel Riley and leads readers on a journey from laughs to jaw dropping reveals.

Tang, Betty C. *Parachute Kids.* New York: Graphix, 2023. 281 p. (Grades 5-8). Feng-Li was excited about the family vacation to Disneyland. But then the best vacation turned sour when her parents went back to Taiwan, leaving Feng-Li and her teenage siblings to care for themselves. Feing-Li hopes they can make it work, but first her siblings have to learn to get along.
Thayer, Mike. *The Talent Thief*. Feiwel and Friends, 2023. 284p. (Grades 4-6. A girl with the ability to borrow other people’s talents must use her powers to find her own spotlight in this wish-fulfilling middle-grade novel. Tiffany Tudwell feels cursed and longs for stardom, but it’s safe in the shadows where the curse cannot reach her. But two meteors collide and suddenly she can borrow other talents for a day. Can these powers solve everything for her?

Thomas, Angie. *Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy*. New York City: Scholastic, 2023. 368p. (Grades 4-6). Twelve-year-old Nic Blake can’t wait to learn The Gift from her Manifestor father on her birthday. When her father is arrested for a crime he didn’t commit, Nic must call on the help of a hellhound, her Unremarkable best friend, and her long-lost twin brother to find a magical artifact that could save him. Will she save her father in time and what secrets will she discover along the way?