The Uncommoners: The Crooked Sixpence
By Jennifer Bell

Citation:

Annotation:
Full of wonder, this is the story of what happens when ordinary items exhibit extraordinary powers. The Dirge, a nefarious group of individuals, will stop at nothing to possess these items; Ivy Sparrow, and her brother Seb, may be the only people standing in their way.

Reviews:
Booklist, 9/15/2016
Kirkus Review, 10/1/2016
Publishers Weekly, 10/24/2016
School Library Journal, 11/1/2016

Author Website:
https://www.jennifer-bell-author.com/
A Dog Like Daisy
By Kristin O’Donnell Tubb

Citation:

Annotation:
Ten weeks is all rescued pitbull Daisy has to prove that she can pass the test to become a service dog. She is determined to help Colonel Victor with his PTSD attacks, but she must first learn to overcome her past.

Booktalk:
When Daisy is chosen by Colonel Victor to serve as his service dog, she knows she only has ten weeks to prove she can help the Iraq War veteran with his PTSD. She is determined to pass her tests. However, in the process, she struggles with being a service dog for the Colonel or a pet for Micah, the Colonel’s son. She also must learn to overcome her own abusive past. Will Daisy pass her tests? Will she learn how to love and be loved?

Readalikes:
Hero by Jennifer Li Shotz
Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata

Other Books by the Author:
John Lincoln Clem: Civil War Drummer Boy
The 13th Sign
Selling Hope
Autumn Winifred Oliver Does Things Differently

Author’s Website
https://www.kristintubb.com/

Reviews
Booklist, 6/1/2017 (Online)
Kirkus Reviews, 3/15/2017
School Library Journal, 3/1/2017
**Dirt**
By Denise Gosliner Orenstein

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
Eleven-year-old Yonder is having a hard time. Her mom has died and her dad is so sad he can hardly get out of bed. Yonder is lonely and her only friend is an overweight Shetland pony named Dirt, whose owner is selling him for horsemeat.

**Booktalk:**
Ever since her mother's death, eleven-year-old Yonder has had one bad day after another: she has stopped talking, became a target for the bullies at her school, and her dad is just sleeping and drinking his life away. Then she meets neglected Shetland pony and the two bond instantly. Yonder names him Dirt and brings him into her horse to take care of him. After a visit from Social Service, Yonder is sent to foster home and Dirt is put up for sale. Yonder is determined to save Dirt from becoming horsemeat. Yonder runs away from foster care on a quest to save Dirt.

**Read Alikes:**
*Wish* by Barbara O'Connor
*Mutt’s Promise* by Julie Salamon

**Other books by the Author:**
The Secret Twin
Unseen Companion
When the Wind Blows Hard

**Author’s Website:**
http://www.denisegoslinerorenstein.com/

**Reviews:**
*Booklist*, 8/1/17
*School Library Journal*, 05/01/17
*Kirkus*, 5/15/2017
Genevieve’s War
By Patricia Reilly Giff

Citation:

Book Annotation:
On an impulsive decision as her summer stay ends, Genevieve decides to stay in France with her grandmother instead of returning to New York, a choice which lands her in the middle of World War II where German soldiers take over a room in her grandmother’s farmhouse and she must make decisions and take risks in helping her friends.

Booktalk:
Thirteen-year-old American girl Genevieve has spent the summer of 1939 at her grandmother’s farm in Alsace, France. Then she makes an impulsive choice: to stay in France. It proves to be a dangerous decision. World War II erupts. The Nazis conquer Alsace and deport the Jews and others. A frightening German officer commandeers a room in Meme’s farmhouse. And when Gen’s friend Remi commits an act of sabotage, Gen is forced to hide him in the attic—right above the Nazi officer’s head. Genevieve’s War is a gripping story that brings the war in occupied France vividly to life.

Read Alikes:
Lily’s Crossing by Patricia Reilly Giff
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Other Books and Series By the Author:
Jubilee
Gingersnap
Pictures of Hollis Woods
Winter Sky
Polk Street School Series
Zigzag Kids Series

Author Website:
https://www.prhspeakers.com/speaker/patricia-reilly-g

Book Reviews:
Booklist, starred, 3/15/2017
Horn Book Magazine, May/June, 2017
Kirkus Reviews, 3/1/2017
Publisher’s Weekly, 2/13/2017
School Library Journal, 4/1/2017
The Great Treehouse War
By Lisa Graff

Citation:

Book Annotation:
When Winnie’s parents get divorced and force her to divide her time perfectly evenly between them including spending Wednesdays in a treehouse between their houses, Winnie’s frustration level forces her to barricade herself in the treehouse along with her friends in this zany kids-vs-parents showdown told in a “collective memoir” style.

Booktalk:
Winnie’s last day of fourth grade ended with a pretty life-changing surprise. That was the day Winnie’s parents got divorced, the day they decided that Winnie would live three days a week with each of them and spend Wednesdays by herself in a treehouse smack between their houses, to divide her time perfectly evenly between them. It was the day Winnie’s seed of frustration with her parents was planted, a seed that grew and grew until it felt like it was as big as a tree itself.

Read Alikes:
Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo
It’s Not the End of the World by Judy Blume

Other Books By the Author:
Absolutely Almost
A Clatter of Jars
Double Dog Dare
Lost in the Sun
Umbrella Summer

Author’s Website:
www.lisagraff.com

Book Reviews:
Horn Book Magazine, July/August, 2017
Kirkus Reviews, 2/15/2017
Booklist, 4/1/2017
Publisher’s Weekly Annex, 5/8/2017
School Library Journal, 4/1/2017
How to Be an Elephant: Growing Up in the African Wild
By Katherine Roy

Citation:

Annotation:
This informative text follows the birth and development of a baby elephant in the wilds of Africa, as it grows and expands its many skills.

Book Talk:
Have you ever wondered what it is like to grow up as an elephant? To discover the world around you as you figure out what this long thing hanging down your face is actually for? To walk among giants as you slowly grow into the majestic creature you are? Come along for the journey as one elephant grows up before your eyes.

Read Alikes:
Neighborhood Sharks by Katherine Roy

Other Books By the Author:
Neighborhood Sharks

Author’s Website:
http://katherineroy.com

Reviews:
Booklist, starred, July 2017
School Library Journal, 6/1/2017
Kirkus Reviews, 6/15/2017
Publisher’s Weekly, 7/10/2017
School Library Journal, 6/1/2017
**Ivy**  
By Katherine Coville

**Citation:**  

**Annotation:**  
The little town of Broomsweep wants to be known as the tidiest town in the land, but they fear that young Ivy and her grandmother May’s unkempt home and garden will destroy their chances. When magical creatures, including a griffin, a dragon, and pixies appear, the mess begins to grow, and Ivy finds herself delighted by the possibilities.

**Booktalk:**  
Welcome to the little town of Broomsweep where porches are swept and yards are well groomed. Ivy and her grandmother, Mae, live on the edge of town where Mae runs a hospital for woodland and magical creatures. Mae is well known for her talents as a healer, and Ivy does her best to help out. They struggle to tidy up their messy cottage and unruly garden, but the arrival of new refugees makes the task impossible. When the new queen announces a contest to honor the tidiest town in the land, Ivy and Mae find themselves pressured by the villagers to clean up their act. With the arrival of an injured griffin, a dragon with a cold, and a band of pixies the mess begins to grow. Ivy and Mae welcome all creatures who are in need of their help, believing that positive actions bring about positive things. When a band of trolls threaten the calm the animals work together to help out and Ivy finds that hospitality and kindness wins every time.

**Read Alikes:**  
*Spiderwick Chronicles* by Holly Black  
*Pip Bartlett’s Guide to Magical Creatures* by Maggie Stiefvater and Jackson Pearce  
*The Sisters Grimm* by Michael Buckley and Peter Ferguson

**Other Books By The Author:**  
*The Cottage in the Woods*  
*Aliens Ate My Homework*  
*The Dragonslayers*

**Reviews:**  
Booklist, 2/1/2017  
Kirkus Reviews 12/15/2016  
*Publisher’s Weekly*, 2/27/2017  
*School Library Journal*, 1/1/2017
Joplin Wishing
By Diane Stanley

Citation:

Annotation:
Joplin returns home from her grandfather’s funeral with a secret treasure, one that holds much more magic than she ever imagined.

Booktalk:
As Joplin navigates life at school, where she is bullied and has lost her best friend to the popular crowd, she makes a wish to have a new friend. The next day she meets Barrett, a boy from school, and Sophie, a mysterious but familiar young Dutch girl. The three friends try to solve the mystery of the magical treasure from Joplin’s grandfather’s house all while trying to help Sophie fulfill her own wish...to get back home to her family. This wonderful adventure about friendship, love, and loss will keep you intrigued and cheering for a happy ending for all.

Read Alikes:
The Silver Bowl by Diane Stanley
Tumble & Blue by Cassie Beasley
The Song From Somewhere Else by A.F. Harrold

Other Books by the Author:
The Chosen Prince
The Silver Bowl
The Cup and the Crown
Ada Lovelace, Poet of Science

Author’s Website: https://dianestanley.com

Reviews
Publisher’s Weekly, 4/17/2017
School Library Journal, 5/1/2017
Booklist, starred, 4/15/2017
Horn Book, July, August 2017
Kirkus, starred, 3/15/2017
Lemons
By Melissa Savage

Citation:

Annotation:
When Lemonade Liberty Witt’s mother dies, Lem has no choice but to leave San Francisco to live with her grandfather in Willow Creek. Heartbroken and scared, Lem meets 11 year old Tobin Sky, CEO of Bigfoot Detectives, Inc. and the two have a summer full of adventures and Bigfoot!

Booktalk:
Lemonade Liberty Witt (Lem for short) has never known her father. When her mother dies, Lem has no place to go but to the “Bigfoot Capital of the World,” also known as Willow Creek. As she learns to adjust to life with her grandfather that she has just met, Lem must also learn how to heal her broken heart, make new friends, and the ins and outs of her new job as assistant to the CEO of Bigfoot Detectives, Inc. Lem spends her summer in the woods searching for Bigfoot, and in the process, learns that love sometimes shows up in the most unexpected of places.

Readalikes:
*Flora & Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo
*Liar & Spy* by Rebecca Stead

Author’s Website:
https://melissadsavage.com/

Reviews
Booklist 3/15/2017
Kirkus Reviews 3/15/2017
*School Library Journal* 3/1/2017
Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of a Little Horse Who Became a Hero
By Patricia McCormick

Citation:

Annotation:
A scrawny sorrel mare dubbed Private Reckless proved her worth with heart and bravery. Reckless earned two purple hearts, and the rank of Sergeant for her work with the U.S. marine corp during the Korean War.

Author’s Website:
https://www.patriciamccormick.com/

Read Alikes:
Dog Finds Lost Dolphins! And More True Stories of Amazing Animal Heroes by: Elizabeth Carney
Paws of Courage: True Tales of Heroic Dogs that Protect and Serve by: Nancy Furstringer
Dog Heroes: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House Merlin Mission #18: Dogs in the Dead of Night by: Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce
Horse Heroes: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #49: Stallion by Starlight by: Mary Pope Osborne

Reviews:
Booklist, starred, July 2017
Horn Book, September/October 2017
Kirkus Reviews, 7/1/2017
Publishers Weekly, 7/3/2017
School Library Journal, 8/1/2017
Snow & Rose
By Emily Winfield Martin

Citation:

Annotation:
This retelling of Snow White and Rose Red is enchanting; it is full of fierce beasts and villains, magical libraries, and heroic girls with real moxie. Also, the illustrations are beautiful and add to the compelling story.

Reviews:
Booklist, 9/1/2017
Kirkus Reviews, 7/15/2017
Publisher’s Weekly, 8/17/2017
School Library Journal, 5/1/2017

Author Website:
https://www.emilywinfieldmartin.com/
Someday Suitcase
By Corey Ann Haydu

Citation:

Annotation:
Clover and Danny are almost inseparable best friends until Danny becomes deathly ill. Mysteriously, Danny’s health improves when Clover is present and she is determined to learn why and help Danny’s doctors heal him.

Author’s Website:
http://www.coreyannhaydu.com/

Read Alikes:
The Thing About Jellyfish by: Ali Benjamin
Bridge to Terabithia by: Katherine Paterson
Ways to Live Forever: Sally Nicholls
Sadako & the Thousand Paper Cranes by: Elanor Coerr

Reviews:
Booklist, starred, 5/15/2017
Horn Book, July/August 2017
Kirkus Review, starred, 3/15/2017
School Library Journal, 6/1/2017
Citation:

Annotation:
Starting at a new school is never easy, but for Lester, the changes from homeschooling are even more profound. Dealing with his unique behavior causes friction between not only the other students, but the teachers as well as he navigates making new friends, being bullied, and wanting to win the science fair.

Book Talk:
Have you ever had changes in your life? Have you ever had to start a new school? Lester makes the shift from being homeschooled to attending a brand new school. Dealing with these changes, as well as his behaviour both in class and out, create new challenges for all those around him. Lester must navigate being bullied, dealing with teachers, making new friends and a strong desire to win the science fair, all while surviving his first year in a new school.

Read Alikes:
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Hunt
*Wonder* R.J. Palacio

Author’s Website:
https://mandydavis.com/

Reviews:
*Booklist*, 6/1/2017
*School Library Journal*, 5/1/2017
*Horn Book*, July/August 2017
*Kirkus Reviews*, starred, 4/1/2017
*Publisher’s Weekly*, 5/1/2017
Citation:

Annotation:
Eddie must use his wits and knowledge of stories to rescue his missing Aunt Min and save the Ferny Creek School Library from being closed permanently.

Booktalk:
Reading is dangerous. At least that’s what Eddie’s mom think since his grandpa was squished in a copy of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Now the family is worried because Aunt Min hasn’t returned home from her trip to the library a week ago. Eddie decides he is the only one who can save Aunt Min and sets out to rescue her. He must brave the hallways where spiders and Squishers roam to navigate to the library. Once he reaches the library, he realizes he has much bigger problems. Aunt Min is injured and there is a substitute librarian, Ms. Grisch, who is trying to close the library permanently. Eddie and Aunt Min must figure out a way to save the library and get back to their family behind the chalkboard before it’s too late.

Read Alikes:
*The Unbreakable Code* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertram
*Mr. Lemoncello’s Great Library Race* by Chris Grabenstein
*The Island of Dr. Libris* by Chris Grabenstein
*Flora & Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo

Other Titles by the Author:
*Under-the-Bed Fred*
*Carson Crosses Canada*
*If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur*

Author Website:

Reviews:
*Publishers Weekly Annex*, 6/19/2017
*School Library Journal*, 5/1/2017
*Booklist*, starred, 5/15/2017
*Horn Book*, July/August 2017
*Kirkus*, 4/1/2017
Annotation:

Citation:
Red, the 216 year old wishtree, works to unite neighborhood through acceptance and understanding while protecting the creatures that live within it from impending eviction.

Booktalk:
Have you ever had a conversation with a tree? Not many people have according to Red, a 216 year old Northern Red Oak. Red is the Wishing Tree in the heart of a small community of humans and animals. Samar, the new girl in the neighborhood, is having a hard time making friends and finds it even harder when someone carves “Leave” into Red. Red and Bongo, a spunky crow, make it their mission to help Samar but Red’s time is running out. Francesca wants to cut Red down. It’s causing too many problems with her pipes. Will they be able to help Samar make friends and save Red before it’s too late or is this Red’s last May Day?

Read Alikes:
*Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
*Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes
*There’s A Boy in the Girl’s Bathroom* by Louis Sachar

Other Titles by the Author:
*The One and Only Ivan*
*Crenshaw*
*Home of the Brave*
*The Buffalo Storm*

Author Website:
http://wishtreebook.com/

Reviews:
*Booklist*, starred, 7/2017
*Kirkus Reviews*, starred, 8/15/2017
*School Library Journal*, 6/1/2017
*Horn Book*, November/December 2017
*Publisher’s Weekly*, 7/10/2017