

## Salem Middle School Grade 5-8

### Summer Reading Program 2018

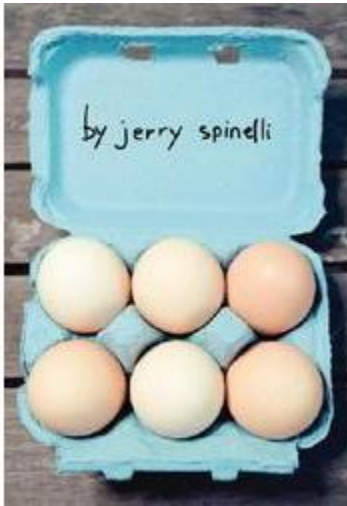
- Students in grade 5, 6 & 7 will choose one book from the list below.
- Students in grade 8 will read one required book and one book of choice from the list below.

Upon returning to school in September, teachers will assign an essay topic for a summer reading grade. Students will be expected to discuss their book with their peers in a Literature Circle format. Teachers will guide the discussions and assess students' performance.

#### Directions:

1. Choose a book and read it carefully
2. Complete your reading log
3. Be prepared to participate in small group discussions for extra credit.
4. Review your book in preparation for an essay that your teachers will assign when you return to school in September.

## Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices



### Eggs (Lexile 610)

By Jerry Spinelli

Nine-year-old David has recently lost his mother to a freak accident, his salesman father is constantly on the road, and he is letting his anger out on his grandmother.

Sarcastic and bossy 13-year-old Primrose lives with her childlike, fortuneteller mother, and a framed picture is the only evidence of the father she never knew.

Despite their differences, David and Primrose forge a tight yet tumultuous friendship, eventually helping each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

This powerful, quirky novel about two very complicated, damaged children has much to say about friendship, loss, and recovery.

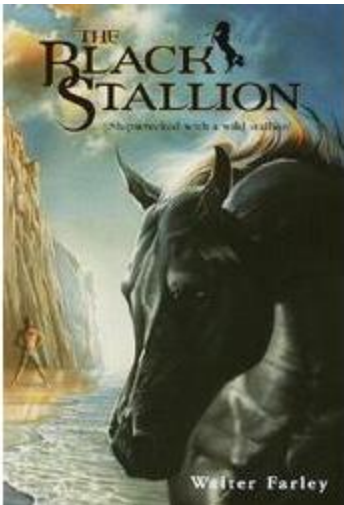


## The Liberation of Gabriel King (Lexile 680)

By K. L. Going

Gabriel King was a born chicken. He's afraid of spiders, corpses, loose cows, and just about everything related to the fifth grade. Gabe's best friend, Frita Wilson, thinks Gabe needs some liberating from his fears. Frita knows something about being brave: She's the only black kid in school in a town with an active Ku Klux Klan.

Together Gabe and Frita are going to spend the summer of 1976 facing down the fears on Gabe's list. But it turns out that Frita has her own list, and while she's helping Gabe confront his fears, she's avoiding the thing that scares her the most.



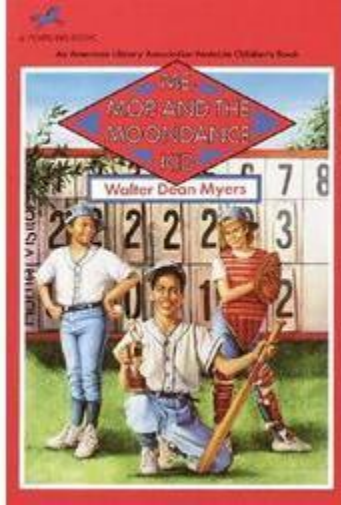
## The Black Stallion (Lexile 680)

(Black Stallion, Book #1)

By Walter Farley

First published in 1941, Walter Farley's best-selling novel for young readers is the triumphant tale of a boy and a wild horse. From Alec Ramsay and the Black's first meeting on an ill-fated ship to their adventures on a desert island and their eventual rescue, this beloved story will hold the rapt attention of readers new and old.

While he is returning home after visiting his uncle in India, Alec Ramsay nearly loses his life when his ship sinks during a storm. Follow the adventures of Alec and the stallion that saves his life as they prepare to enter a horse race to determine the fastest horse in the world.

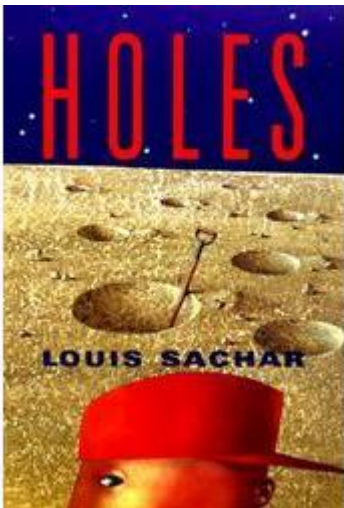


## Me, Mop, and the Moondance Kid (Lexile 640)

By Walter Dean Myers

Eleven-year-old T.J. and his younger brother Billy, also known as Moondance, have been living with their adoptive parents for a few months now and everything is going well. Now their good friend Mop has to find a home before the orphanage closes and the "leftover" kids are relocated to a new city where T.J. and Moondance will probably never see her again. The Elks, a baseball team that the brothers are members of need a catcher and everyone knows that Mop is the best. Everyone also knows that the coach and his wife are looking to adopt a

child and Mop has schemed that if what better way to get adopted than to prove her worth playing on the team? The Elks go on to win the championship, Mop is adopted by the coach and his wife and happily ever after endings come about for all the subplots that seem to abound in this story, i.e. the orphans pet llama goes missing, a bullying coach gets what is coming to him and the orphanage stays open.



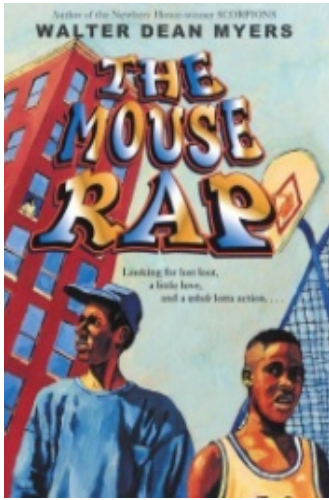
## Holes (Lexile 660)

By Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes.

It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

## Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices



### **The Mouse Rap (Lexile 720)**

By Walter Dean Myers

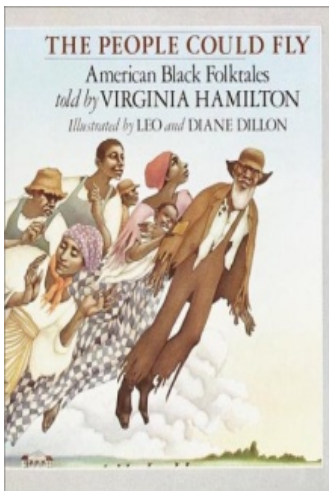
The Mouse should have known that he wasn't going to get nearly as much time to chill or hoop as a dude on summer vacation deserves. One night while tubing out, he sees a news report on some lost loot from a 1930's bank heist, which is supposedly still hidden in Harlem. Soon the Mouse and his crew are searching for clues that will lead them to the treasure.



### **A Wrinkle in Time (Lexile 740)**

By Madeleine L'Engle

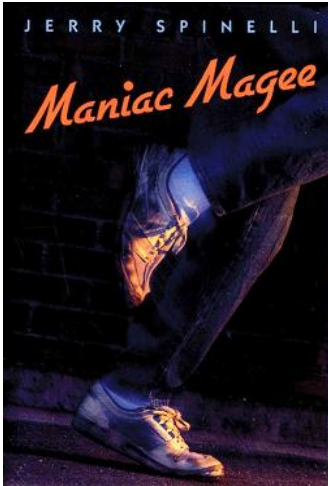
It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.



### **The People Could Fly: American Black Folktale (Lexile 480)**

Told by Virginia Hamilton

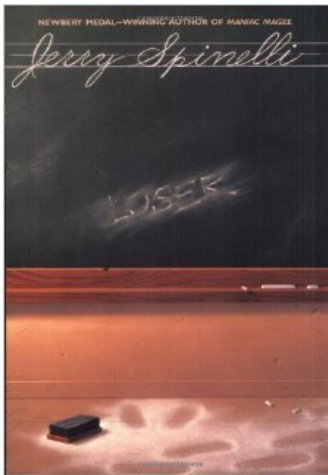
"The well-known author retells 24 black American folk tales in sure storytelling voice: animal tales, supernatural tales, fanciful and cautionary tales, and slave tales of freedom. All are beautifully readable. With the added attraction of 40 wonderfully expressive paintings by the Dillons, this collection should be snapped up."



## Maniac Magee (Lexile 820)

By Jerry Spinelli

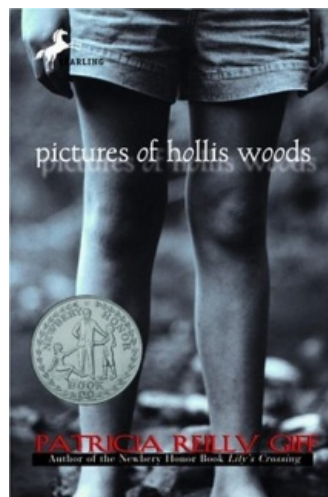
Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats



## Loser (Lexile 650)

By Jerry Spinelli

Just like other kids, Zinkoff rides his bike, hopes for snow days, and wants to be like his dad when he grows up. But Zinkoff also raises his hand with all the wrong answers, trips over his own feet, and falls down with laughter over a word like "Jabip." Other kids have their own word to describe him, but Zinkoff is too busy to hear it. He doesn't know he's not like everyone else. And one winter night, Zinkoff's differences show that any name can someday become "hero."

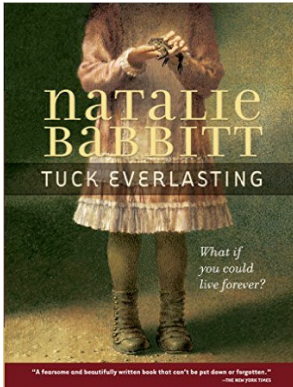


## Pictures of Hollis Woods (Lexile 650)

By Patricia Reilly Giff

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. When Hollis is sent to Josie, she'll do everything in her power to make sure they stay together.

# Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Choices

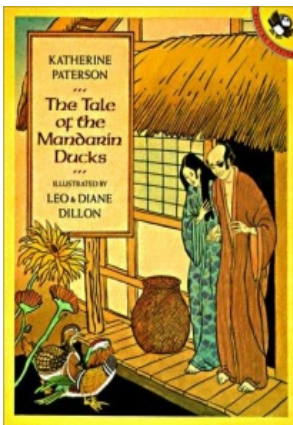


## Tuck Everlasting (Lexile 770)

By Natalie Babbitt

(mandatory for advanced)

Doomed to—or blessed with—eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing that it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune.



## The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks (Lexile 930)

By Katherine Paterson

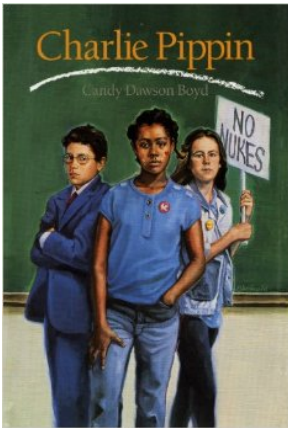
A beautiful mandarin duck is captured and caged by a greedy lord who wants to show off the bird's magnificent plumage. But the wild creature pines for his mate. When Yasuko, the kitchen maid, releases the bird against her lord's command, she and the one-eyed servant, Shozo, are sentenced to death. The grateful bird intends to return their kindness, but can he outsmart the cruel lord?



## Freak the Mighty (Lexile 1000)

By Rodman Philbrick

Two boys – a slow learner stuck in the body of a teenage giant and a tiny Einstein in leg braces – forge a unique friendship when they pair up to create one formidable human force.



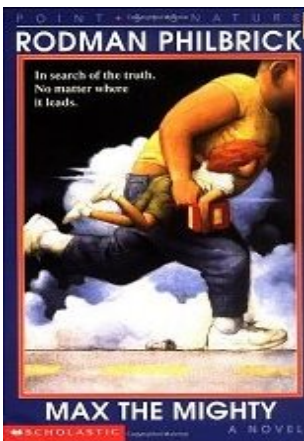
## Charlie Pippin (Lexile 690)

By Candy Dawson Boyd

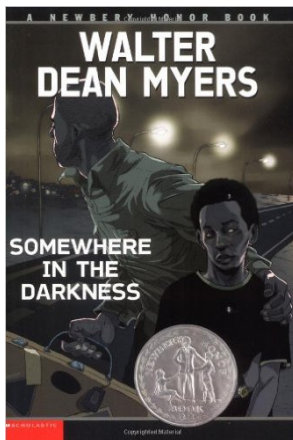
Chartreuse “Charlie” Pippin just can't seem to keep out of trouble. At school, she finds herself at odds with the principal when her entrepreneurial skills lead her to break the rules. At home, her father Oscar, a Vietnam veteran, is outraged by her refusal to play it safe like her sister, Sienna, and always do as she is told. But it is when Charlie's restless curiosity leads her to try and learn more about the Vietnam War that the sparks between Charlie and Oscar really begin to fly. Caught between her father's bitterness about his past and her own unflagging need to understand, Charlie wonders for the first time in her life if she is fighting a battle that no one can.

## Max the Mighty (Lexile 630)

By Rodman Philbrick



Meet Max Kane, the brooding giant-of-a-boy who escaped from his basement hiding place and faced the real world in *Freak the Mighty*. Still grieving over the loss of his best friend, Kevin, Max finds himself defending a young, solitary girl cruelly nicknamed “Worm” because she loves to read. And When Max gets blamed for a horrific crime, he and Worm flee across America-hunted by the police and pursued by the mysterious man knows as the Undertaker. The only way the teens can survive is to confront Worm’s darkest and most revealing secret. And that means facing something more frightening than death itself.

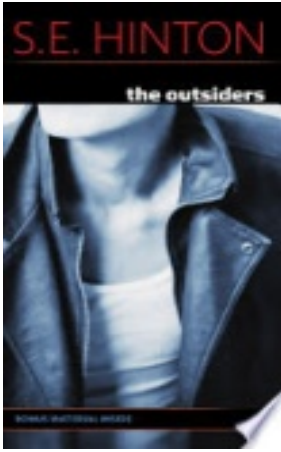


## Somewhere in the Darkness (Lexile 640)

By Walter Dean Myers

Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years. But one day he comes back -- on the run from the law. Together, the two of them travel across the country -- where Jimmy's dad will find the man who can exonerate him of the crime for which he was convicted. Along the way, Jimmy discovers a lot about his father and himself -- and that while things can't always be fixed, sometimes they can be understood and forgiven.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade General Education Summer Reading Choices



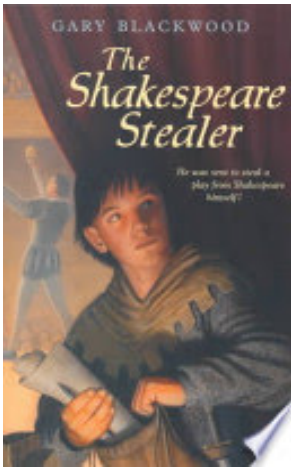
### The Outsiders (Lexile 750)

**\*\*\*Required Read\*\*\***

By S.E. Hinton

No one ever said life was easy. But Ponyboy is pretty sure that he's got things figured out. He knows that he can count on his brothers, Darry and Sodapop. And he knows that he can count on his friends—true friends who would do anything for him, like Johnny and Two-Bit. And when it comes to the Socs—a vicious gang of rich kids who enjoy beating up on "greasers" like him and his friends—he knows that he can count on them for trouble. But one night someone takes things too far, and Ponyboy's world is turned upside down...Written over forty-five years ago, *The Outsiders* is a dramatic and enduring work of fiction. S. E. Hinton's classic story of a

boy who finds himself on the outskirts of regular society remains as powerful today as it was the day it was first published.



### The Shakespeare Stealer (Lexile 840)

By Gary Blackwood

Widge is an orphan with a rare talent for shorthand. His fearsome master has just one demand: steal Shakespeare's play "Hamlet"--or else. Widge has no choice but to follow orders, so he works his way into the heart of the Globe Theatre, where Shakespeare's players perform. As full of twists and turns as a London alleyway, this entertaining novel is rich in period details, colorful characters, villainy, and drama. "A fast-moving historical novel that introduces an important era with casual familiarity." --**School Library Journal**, starred review

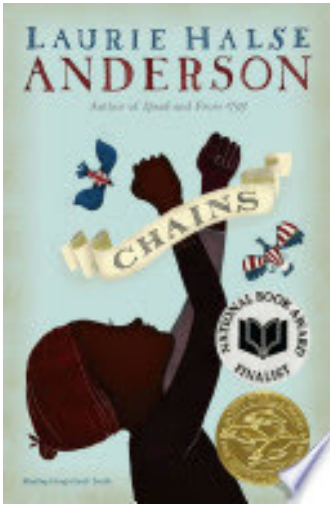


### The Contender (Lexile 760)

By Robert Lipsyte

Before you can be a champion, you have to be a contender. Alfred Brooks is scared. He's a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.





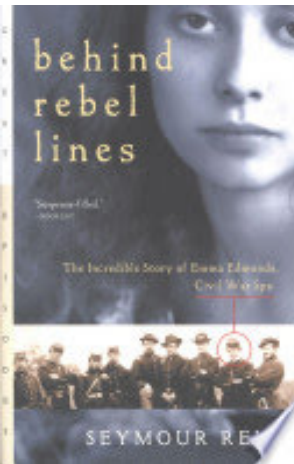
## Chains (Lexile 780)

by Lauri Halse Anderson

**If an entire nation could seek its freedom, *why not a girl?***

As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion. She is reluctant at first, but when the

unthinkable happens to Ruth, Isabel realizes her loyalty is available to the bidder who can provide her with freedom.



## Behind Rebel Lines (Lexile 830)

By Seymour Reit

In 1861, when war erupted between the States, President Lincoln made an impassioned plea for volunteers. Determined not to remain on the sidelines, Emma Edmonds cropped her hair, donned men's clothing, and enlisted in the Union Army. Posing in turn as a slave, peddler, washerwoman, and fop, Emma became a cunning master of disguise, risking discovery and death at every turn behind Confederate lines.



## Romiette and Julio (Lexile 610)

By Sharon Draper

When Romiette Cappelle and her best friend, Destiny, decide to order The Scientific Soul Mate System from the back of *Heavy Hunks* magazine, they're not sure what they're getting into. But Destiny, a self-proclaimed psychic, assures Romi that for \$44.99 plus shipping and handling, it's the only way they're ever going to find out who their soul mates really are. If nothing else, maybe Romi will get some insight into that recurring dream she's been having about fire and water.



## Slam (Lexile 750)

By Walter Dean Myers

Seventeen-year-old Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court. He's seen ballplayers come and go, and he knows he could be one of the lucky ones. Maybe he'll make it to the top. Or maybe he'll stumble along the way. Slam's grades aren't that hot. And when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, he blows up.

Slam never doubted himself on the court until he found himself going one-on-one with his own future, and he didn't have the ball.



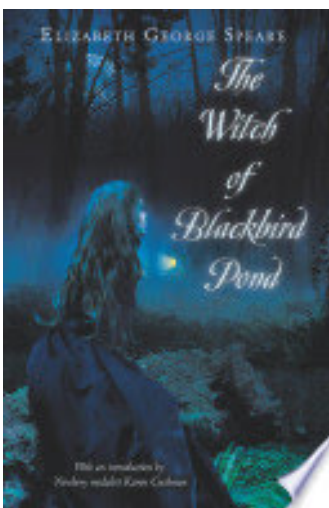
## Fast Sam Cool Clyde & Stuff (Lexile 860)

By Walter Dean Myers

Stuff doesn't know anyone when he first moves to 116th Street. But all of that changes when he meets Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Gloria. Stuff and the gang grow close that eventful year, and nothing is ever like it again. That's the year modern science gets them all in jail; Stuff falls in love and is unfaithful; and Cool Clyde and Fast Sam win the dance contest-almost.

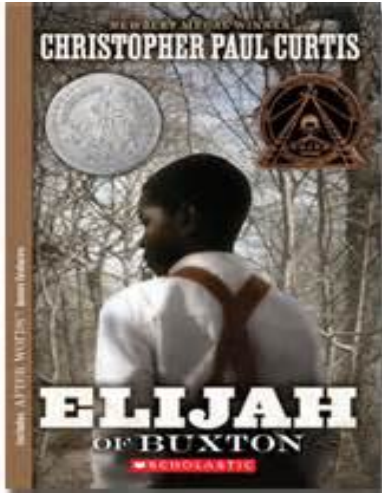
## The Witch of Blackbird Pond (Lexile 850)

By Elizabeth George Speare



Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty.

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Summer Reading Choices

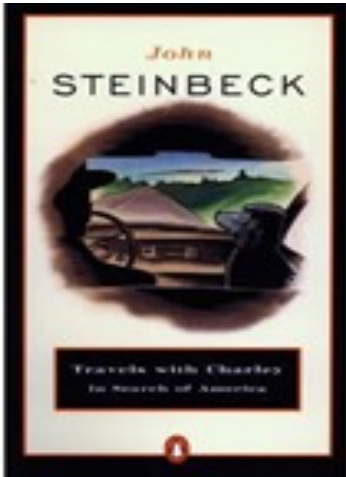


## Elijah of Buxton (Lexile 1070)

by Christopher Paul Curtis

**\*\*\*Required Read\*\*\***

Master storyteller Christopher Paul Curtis's Newbery Honor novel, featuring his trademark humor, unique narrative voice, and new cover art--now in paperback! Eleven-year-old Elijah lives in Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves near the American border. He's the first child in town to be born free, and he ought to be famous just for that. Unfortunately, all that most people see is a "fra-gile" boy who's scared of snakes and talks too much. But everything changes when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend, who has been saving to buy his family out of captivity in the South. Now it's up to Elijah to track down the thief--and his dangerous journey just might make a hero out of him, if only he can find the courage to get back home.



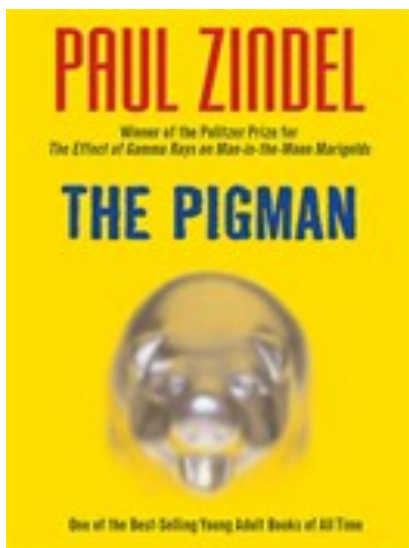
## Travels with Charley (Lexile 1010)

By John Steinbeck

In September 1960, John Steinbeck embarked on a journey across America. He felt that he might have lost touch with the country, with its speech, the smell of its grass and trees, its color and quality of light, the pulse of its people. To reassure himself, he set out on a voyage of rediscovery of the American identity, accompanied by a distinguished French poodle named Charley; and riding in a three-quarter-ton

pickup truck named Rocinante.

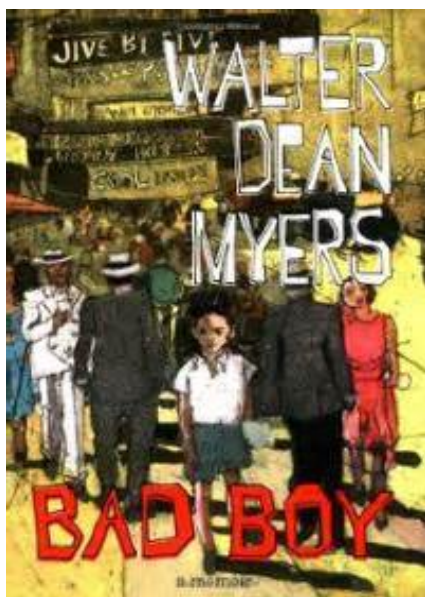
*Travels with Charley in Search of America* is an intimate look at one of America's most beloved writers in the later years of his life—a self-portrait of a man who never wrote an explicit autobiography. Written during a time of upheaval and racial tension in the South—which Steinbeck witnessed firsthand—*Travels with Charley* is a stunning evocation of America on the eve of a tumultuous decade.



## The Pigman (Lexile 950)

By Paul Zindel

One of the best-selling young adult books of all time, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Zindel. John Conlan is nicknamed “The Bathroom Bomber” after setting off firecrackers in the boys’ bathroom 23 times without ever getting caught. John and his best friend, Lorraine, can never please their parents, and school is a chore. To pass the time, they play pranks on unsuspecting people and it's during one of these pranks that they meet the “Pigman.” In spite of themselves, John and Lorraine soon get caught up in Mr. Pignati’s zest for life. In fact, they become so involved that they begin to destroy the only corner of the world that has ever mattered to them. Can they stop before it’s too late?’



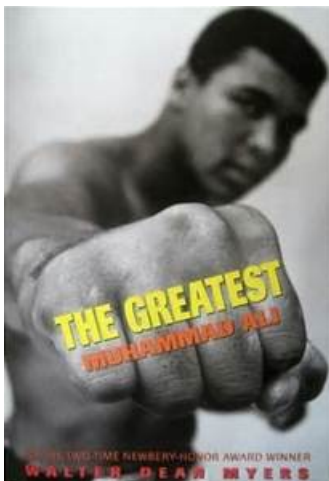
## Bad Boy (Lexile 970)

By Walter Dean Myers

In a memoir that is gripping, funny, and ultimately unforgettable, New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers travels back to his roots in the magical world of Harlem during the 1940s and 1950s. Here is the story of one of the most distinguished writers of young people's literature today.

As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer.

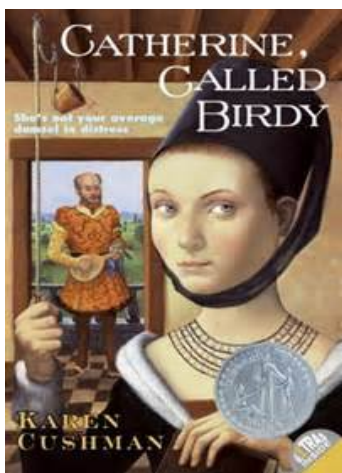
But while growing up in a poor family in Harlem, his hope for a successful future diminished as he came to realize fully the class and racial struggles that surrounded him. He began to doubt himself and the values that he had always relied on, attending high school less and less, turning to the streets and to his books for comfort.



## The Greatest Muhammad Ali (Lexile 1030)

By Walter Dean Myers

A riveting portrait of the world's greatest boxer chronicles his childhood, his rise as a champion, his politics, and his battle against Parkinsons' disease to demonstrate his accomplishments both inside and outside the ring.



## Catherine Called Birdy (Lexile 1170)

By Karen Cushman

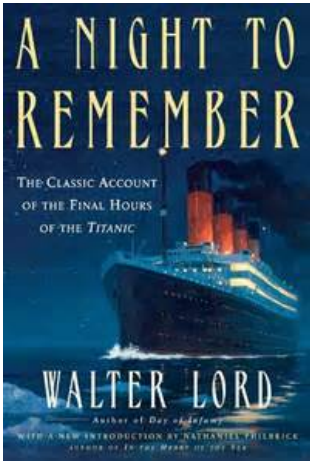
Catherine, a spirited and inquisitive young woman of good family, narrates in diary form the story of her fourteenth year--the year 1290. Catherine's in trouble. Her father is trying to marry her off to disgusting old Shaggy Beard, and her mother's determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady. Will either of them succeed? Not if Catherine has anything to do with it! Catherine is only 14 years old.



## Geeks (Lexile 1070)

By John Katz

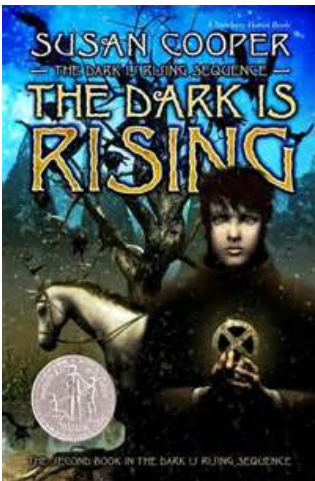
Jesse and Eric were roommates in the tiny town of Caldwell, Idaho, nineteen-year-old working class kids eking out a living with their seven-dollar-an-hour jobs selling and fixing computers. College was never in the cards. Their families had been torn apart by divorce and hard times, separation and illness. They had almost no social lives, and little to look forward to. They spent every spare cent on their computers, and every spare moment n-line.



## **A Night to Remember (Lexile 950)**

By Walter Lord

First published in 1955, *A Night to Remember* remains a completely riveting account of the *Titanic's* fatal collision and the behavior of the passengers and crew, both noble and ignominious. Some sacrificed their lives, while others fought like animals for their own survival. Wives beseeched husbands to join them in lifeboats; gentlemen went taut-lipped to their deaths in full evening dress; and hundreds of steerage passengers, trapped below decks, and sought help in vain.



## **The Dark is Rising (Lexile 920)**

by Susan Cooper

When Will Stanton wakes up on the morning of his birthday, he discovers an unbelievable gift -- he is immortal. Bemused and terrified, he finds he is the last of the Old Ones, magical men and women sworn to protect the world from the source of evil, the Dark.