



The Jewish Academy

Summer ELA/Reading Mission

Instructions for Parents and Students:

Choose a book from the recommended book list in the *appendix* on the back pages.

Be sure to choose a book at an appropriate grade level. In order to narrow down your book choice, we recommend circling a few book titles that interest you and reading a short description of each online. You may decide to order your book online or to check it out from a local library branch. After you read the book, answer the mission questions below. On the first day of school, turn in the Summer Reading and Math Mission packets into your general studies teacher. You may choose to A) print out packets and to answer questions in the space provided or B) answer questions on a separate sheet of paper.

K-3rd Grade Mission Questions

Name: _____ Entering Grade: _____ Book
Title/Author: _____

Write a **book report** using the writing prompts provided. Write in paragraph form. A paragraph is a group of sentences that tell about the same thing. The first sentence in each paragraph is called a **topic sentence**. Every other sentence in the paragraph must tell about the same thing as the topic sentence. This means that you will write a separate paragraph for each new idea. Use complete sentences, correct spelling, correct punctuation, and correct capitalization. Don't forget to write neatly in cursive. Include the following paragraphs.

- **Begin with an introduction.** This lets others know what your summary will be about. First, state the title of the book (underline it!) and the author's name. Next, write a one-sentence summary of what the book is about. Last, explain why you chose this book. For example, "I read *Brave Norman* by Andrew Clements. This book is about a dog that helps people. I chose this book because I have a dog like Norman."
- **Describe the setting.** This is where and when the story takes place. It might be in a building or outside, or in an imaginary place. The time might be now or a long time ago. Write about where and when the story takes place.
- **Describe the main character(s).** Most stories have a main character and one or two others who are important. Choose 1 or 2 important characters from this book and describe them. Write about what they look like, what they like to do, and how they act – silly, honest, smart? Describe some things that make the character(s) special.
- **Write a summary (the important ideas) of the plot.** The plot tells what happens to the main character(s). Usually there is a problem to solve. This is called the conflict. Explain what happens in the beginning, the middle, and the end. Explain the main problem or conflict the characters have to solve and how they do it.
- **End with a conclusion.** This is where you give your opinion of the story. Write a paragraph telling whether or not you liked the book and the reason(s) why. Also tell about what you have learned. Be specific.

**TURN TO THE NEXT PAGE TO BEGIN YOUR MISSION. FILL IN THE
BLANK LINES AS DIRECTED.**

Introduction:

I read _____ by _____.

It is a story about _____

_____. I chose this book because

Setting:

This story takes place _____

Main Characters:

The main character(s) in the story is _____

_____. I would describe this character as

_____. This character is important because _____

Plot:

The story is about _____

_____. The biggest problem in the book is _____

Conclusion:

I _____ this book because _____
like/dislike

One thing I learned from this story is _____

Draw a picture explaining an important event in your book. On the bottom of the page, write a few sentences explaining what is occurring in the picture.

4th-7th grade Mission Questions

Name _____

Book Title/Author: _____

Entering Grade: _____

PREDICT (LA.7.1.7.8): Based upon the title, pictures on the cover, and any writing on the book jacket, what is your prediction about this book?

VOCABULARY (LA.7.1.6):

List and define **SIX** new vocabulary words from the book.

CHARACTERS (LA.7.2.1.2): Identify two characters from your book. For each character, list four traits that you would use to describe that character's personality and/or character.

A. _____:

B. _____:

PLOT – CAUSE AND EFFECT (LA.7.1.7.4): Choose one major turning point in the book and describe the cause(s) and effect(s) surrounding it.

PLOT - CONFLICT (LA.7.2.1.2): Conflict happens in stories when characters interact with each other (man vs. man), themselves (man vs. self), and/or their environments (man vs. nature). Even though we sometimes think of conflict in terms of fighting, it can be any kind of struggle that helps make the story move in interesting ways. It usually involves the character's thinking and acting based on some kind of struggle. Think about your story or book and find the conflict. Describe the conflict in the story and explain how it is relevant to the plot.

CHAPTERS – MAIN IDEA (LA.7.1.7.3) Choose 4 interesting chapters from the book. Write a main idea for each of these chapters. Write the main ideas in sentence form below

Ch ____: _____

Ch ____: _____

Ch ____: _____

Ch ____: _____

AUTHOR'S PURPOSE (LA.7.1.7.2) Sometimes authors have a specific purpose for writing. These reasons are sometimes called "Author's Purpose." After studying the examples of reasons below, see if you can tell one or two purposes for writing this book. Please add details. Examples: to entertain, to amuse, to tell about, to show, to empathize, to describe, to persuade, to detail history, to reveal, to lift up, to educate (and many more) What was your author's purpose?

THEME (LA.7.2.1) Finding the theme of a book can be difficult because you must really read, comprehend, and be able to draw conclusions and generalize about the issues and struggles of life. A book may have more than one theme. Sometimes themes are expressed in short phrases, such as the horror of war, people's mistreatment of others, love will find a way, the courage of the human spirit, persistence pays off, good versus evil, the coming of age in society, conquering tyranny, rising above our circumstances, the adventurous spirit of youth, giving up or taking control of oneself, etc. Remember theme is not a summary of the plot. Write a paragraph about one of the themes of your book, and explain how that theme is represented in the book. Your paragraph should help the reader understand what the author is trying to say about human nature or life in general.

Book Review:

The idea of a professional book review is to briefly summarize the ideas of the book and to you're your opinion about the book's merits. A book review requires that you are going to evaluate objectively whether the author(s) have fulfilled their objectives in the book. Did you find the book engaging? Persuasive? Did you agree with it? Did you enjoy reading it? Would you recommend it to others? What is the intended audience of the book? Does it succeed in reaching this audience?

Work hard on making your book review very readable to a general audience – it should flow well and be written nicely. You should have an introduction, discussion of the book, and clear conclusion. You may decide to structure it as follows:

Summary: Write a summary of the book.

1st paragraph - Write about the setting, (where the story takes place, usually time and place). Introduce the main character or characters in the story. Ex. What are character's qualities, name, etc. Discuss what conflict/problem the main character faces in the story. If you're still having trouble starting, you can answer the questions who, what, when, where, and how.

2nd paragraph - Summarize what happens up until the high point of the story, (where the character resolves the problem). Use some of these transition words to help you write your review.

first also because another
second between next as a result
third finally then later
last after that for example during

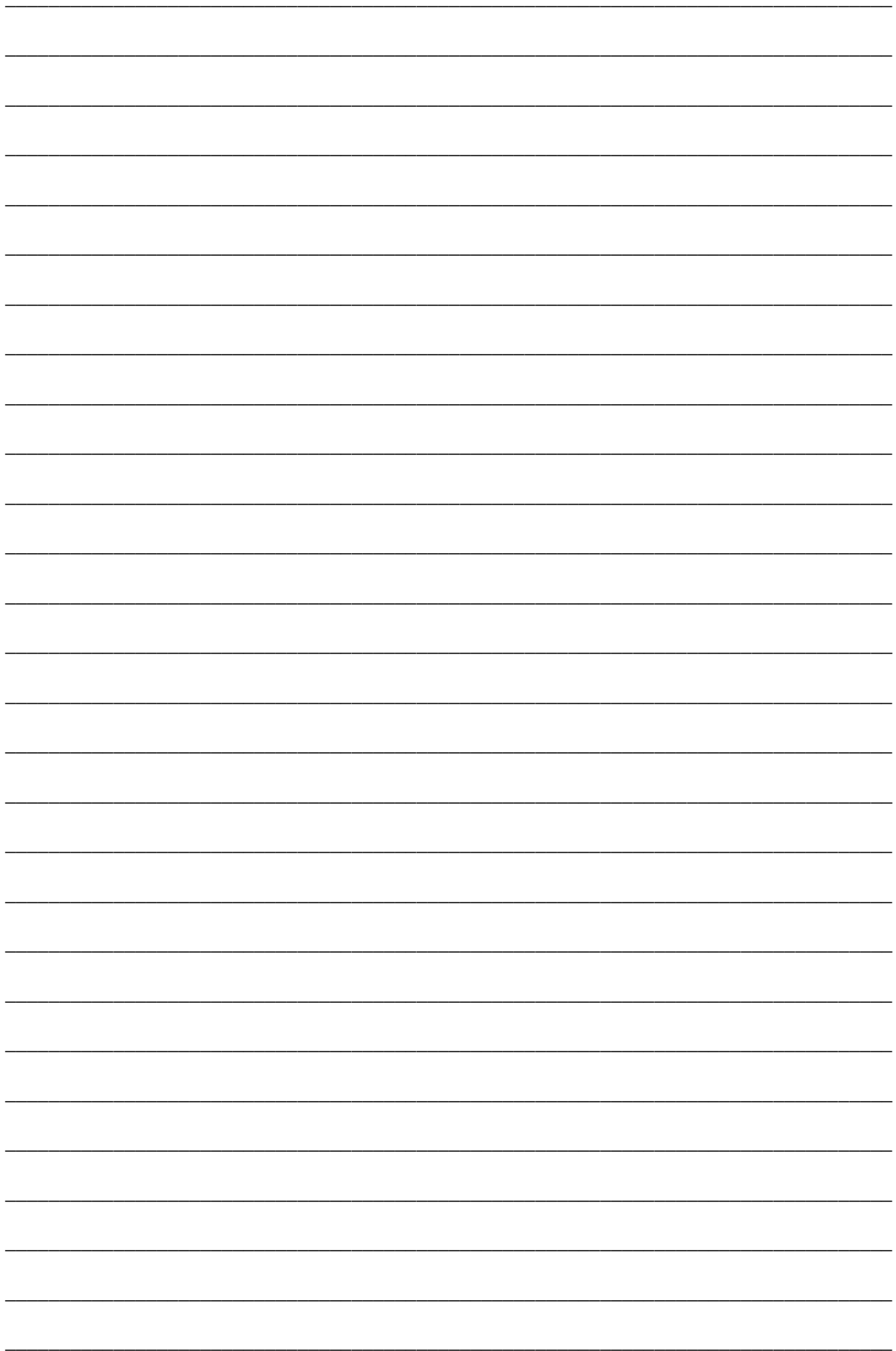
3rd paragraph - Write about the ending of the book. Write about how the character solved his or her problem. Also discuss what the theme of the book might be. Theme is the central message in the story.

Opinion:

4th paragraph - Write a paragraph giving your opinion on the book. Use the following guidelines. Write about why you liked or disliked the book. Give details, for example: Was the book confusing? Was it too easy to read or too hard? Was it predictable/ believable? Did you like the ending? What was your favorite part? What connections did you make with your life or other books? Talk about the author's style of writing and give examples from the book.

Recommendation:

5th paragraph - Explain whether you would recommend this book to another student or not? Rate the book from 1 to 10, and give examples why you gave it the rating you did. Examples should include a quote or quotes from the book or a summary of the part of the book that you liked or did not like.



APPENDIX OF BOOKS TO CHOICE FROM BY APPROPRIATE GRADE LEVEL

K-3rd Book List:

- Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day – Viorst, Judith ☆☆☆☆☆
- All-of-a-Kind Family – Taylor, Sydney ☆☆☆☆☆
- Amelia Bedelia – Parish, Peggy ☆☆☆☆☆
- Anansi the Spider – McDermott, Gerald ☆☆☆☆☆
- Bedtime for Frances – Hoban, Russell ☆☆☆☆☆
- Blueberries for Sal – McCloskey, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Cabin Faced West – Fritz, Jean ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Carrot Seed – Krauss, Ruth ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Cat in the Hat – Seuss, Dr. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Charlotte’s Web – White, E.B. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs – Barrett, Judy ☆☆☆☆☆
- Corduroy – Freeman, Don ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Cricket in Times Square – Selden, George ☆☆☆☆☆
- Curious George – Rey, H.A. ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Dot – Reynolds, Peter ☆☆☆☆☆
- Freckle Juice – Blume, Judy ☆☆☆☆☆
- Frederick – Lionni, Leo ☆☆☆☆☆
- Frog and Toad Are Friends – Lobel, Arnold ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Garden of Abdul Gasazi – Van Allsburg, Chris ☆☆☆☆☆
- George and Martha – Marshall, James ☆☆☆☆☆
- Goodnight, Moon – Brown, Margaret Wise ☆☆☆☆☆
- Harry the Dirty Dog – Zion, Gene ☆☆☆☆☆
- How the Leopard Got His Claws – Achebe, Chinua ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Hundred Dresses – Estes, Eleanor ☆☆☆☆☆
- I Want My Hat Back – Klassen, Jon ☆☆☆☆☆
- If I Never Forever Endeavor – Meade, Holly ☆☆☆☆☆
- Leo the Late Bloomer – Kraus, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆

- The Little Engine That Could – Piper, Watty ☆☆☆☆☆
- Little House on the Prairie – Wilder, Laura Ingalls ☆☆☆☆☆
- Little Toot – Gramatky, Hardie ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Littles – Peterson, John ☆☆☆☆☆
- Madeline – Bemelmans, Ludwig ☆☆☆☆☆
- Make Way for Ducklings – McCloskey, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel – Burton, Virginia Lee ☆☆☆☆☆
- Millions of Cats – Gag, Wanda ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Mouse and the Motorcycle – Cleary, Beverly ☆☆☆☆☆
- Mr. Popper’s Penguins – Atwater, Richard and Florence ☆☆☆☆☆
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh – O’Brien, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- Paul Revere’s Ride – Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Polar Express – Chris Van Allsburg ☆☆☆☆☆
- Peppe the Lamplighter – Bartone, Elisa ☆☆☆☆☆
- Pippi Longstocking - Lindgren, Astrid ☆☆☆☆☆
- Put Me in the Zoo – Lopshire, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- Rabbit Hill – Lawson, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- Ramona Quimby, Age 8 – Cleary, Beverly ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Quiltmaker’s Gift – Brumbeau, Jeff ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Reluctant Dragon – Grahame, Kenneth ☆☆☆☆☆
- Sam the Minuteman – Benchley, Nathaniel ☆☆☆☆☆
- Sarah, Plain and Tall – MacLachlan, Patricia ☆☆☆☆☆
- Shiloh – Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Snowy Day – Keats, Ezra Jack ☆☆☆☆☆
- Stellanuna – Cannon, Janell ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Stinky Cheese Man & Other Fairly Stupid Tales – Scieszka, Jon ☆☆☆☆☆
- Stone Soup – Brown, Marcia ☆☆☆☆☆
- Tale of Despereaux – DiCamillo, Kate ☆☆☆☆☆

4th-6th Grade Book List:

- Alice in Wonderland – Carroll, Lewis ☆☆☆☆☆
- Anne of Green Gables – Montgomery, L.M. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Ben and Me – Lawson, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- Betsy-Tacy – Lovelace, Maud Hart ☆☆☆☆☆
- Black Beauty – Sewell, Anna ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Black Stallion – Farley, Walter ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Borrowers – Norton, Mary ☆☆☆☆☆
- Bridge to Terabithia – Paterson, Katherine ☆☆☆☆☆
- Caddie Woodlawn – Brink, Carol Ryrie ☆☆☆☆☆
- Cheaper by the Dozen – Gilbreth, Frank ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Children of Green Knowe – Boston, L.M. ☆☆☆☆☆

Chronicles of Prydain – Alexander, Lloyd (entire series as listed below)

- The Book of Three ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Black Cauldron ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Castle of Llyr ☆☆☆☆☆
- Taran Wanderer ☆☆☆☆☆
- The High King ☆☆☆☆☆

The Complete Chronicles of Narnia – Lewis, C.S. (entire series as listed below)

- The Magician's Nephew ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Horse and his Boy ☆☆☆☆☆
- Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Voyage of the Dawn Treader ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Silver Chair ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Last Battle ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Complete Fairy Tales (use volume appropriate for child's age) – Perrault, Charles ☆☆☆☆☆
- Over Sea, Under Stone ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Dark Is Rising ☆☆☆☆☆
- Greenwich ☆☆☆☆☆

- The Grey King ☆☆☆☆☆
- Silver on the Tree ☆☆☆☆☆
- D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths – d'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar ☆☆☆☆☆
- D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths – d'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Dog on Barkham Street – Stolz, Mary ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate – Kelly, Jacqueline ☆☆☆☆☆
- From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – Konigsburg, E.L. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Gentle Ben – Morey, Walt ☆☆☆☆☆
- Hatchet – Paulsen, Gary ☆☆☆☆☆
- Hans Brinker, or The Silver Skates – Dodge, Mary Mapes ☆☆☆☆☆
- Harriet the Spy – Fitzhugh, Louise ☆☆☆☆☆
- Heidi – Spyri, Johanna ☆☆☆☆☆
- Homer Price – McCloskey, Robert ☆☆☆☆☆
- The House of Dies Drear – Hamilton, Virginia ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Jungle Book – Kipling, Rudyard ☆☆☆☆☆
- Lad: A Dog – Terhune, Albert Payson ☆☆☆☆☆
- Lassie Come Home – Knight, Eric ☆☆☆☆☆
- Mary Poppins – Travers, Pamela I. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Matilda – Dahl, Roald ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Matchlock Gun – Edmonds, Walter ☆☆☆☆☆
- Misty of Chincoteague – Henry, Marguerite ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Moffats – Estes, Eleanor ☆☆☆☆☆
- My Side of the Mountain – George, Jeanne Craighead ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Pushcart War – Merrill, Jean ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Railway Children – Nesbit, E. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Redwall – Jacques, Brian ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Rescuers – Sharp, Margery ☆☆☆☆☆
- Roller Skates – Sawyer, Ruth ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Secret Garden – Burnett, Frances Hodgson ☆☆☆☆☆
- Strawberry Girl – Lenski, Lois ☆☆☆☆☆

- The Summer of the Swans – Byers, Betsy ☆☆☆☆☆
- Swiss Family Robinson – Wyss, Johann ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Twenty-One Balloons – du Bois, William Pene ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Wonderful Wizard of Oz – Baum, L. Frank ☆☆☆☆☆
- Thimble Summer – Enright, Elizabeth ☆☆☆☆☆
- Tuck Everlasting – Babbitt, Natalie ☆☆☆☆☆

6th -7th Grade Book List

Across Five Aprils – Hunt, Irene ☆☆☆☆☆

- Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – Doyle, Arthur Conan ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – Twain, Mark ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Bridge of San Luis Rey – Wilder, Thornton ☆☆☆☆☆
- Call it Courage – Sperry, Armstrong ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Call of the Wild – London, Jack ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Christmas Carol – Dickens, Charles ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Count of Monte Cristo – Dumas, Alexander ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Day No Pigs Would Die – Peck, Robert Newton ☆☆☆☆☆
- Diary of a Young Girl – Frank, Anne ☆☆☆☆☆
- Dragonwings – Yep, Laurence ☆☆☆☆☆
- Enchantress from the Stars – Engdahl, Sylvia Louise ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Endless Steppe – Hautzig, Esther ☆☆☆☆☆
- Fahrenheit 451 – Bradbury, Ray ☆☆☆☆☆
- Frankenstein – Shelley, Mary ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Ghost Belonged to Me – Peck, Richard ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Giver – Lowry, Lois ☆☆☆☆☆
- Goodbye, Mr. Chips – Hilton, James ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Hobbit – Tolkien, J.R.R. ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame – Hugo, Victor ☆☆☆☆☆
- Incident at Hawk's Hill – Eckert, Allan W. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Island of the Blue Dolphins – O'Dell, Scott ☆☆☆☆☆

- Ivanhoe – Scott, Sir Walter ☆☆☆☆☆
- Jacob Have I Loved – Paterson, Katherine ☆☆☆☆☆
- Johnny Tremain – Forbes, Esther ☆☆☆☆☆
- Journey to Topaz – Uchida, Yoshiko ☆☆☆☆☆
- Julie of the Wolves – George, Jeanne Craighead ☆☆☆☆☆
- Kim – Kipling, Rudyard ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Last Mission – Mazer, Harry ☆☆☆☆☆
- Le Morte d’Arthur – Malory, Sir Thomas ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow – Irving, Washington ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Little Prince – Saint-Exupery, Antoine de ☆☆☆☆☆
- Little Women – Alcott, Louisa May ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Last of the Mohicans – Cooper, James Fenimore ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood – Pyle, Howard ☆☆☆☆☆
- My Friend Flicka – O’Hara, Mary ☆☆☆☆☆
- Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass – Douglass, Frederick ☆☆☆☆☆
- National Velvet – Bagnold, Enid ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Outsiders – Hinton, S.E. ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Pigman – Zindel, Paul ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Pilgrim’s Progress – Bunyan, John ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Red Pony – Steinbeck, John ☆☆☆☆☆
- Rifles for Watie – Keith, Harold ☆☆☆☆☆
- Rip van Winkle – Irving, Washington ☆☆☆☆☆
- Robinson Crusoe – Defoe, Daniel ☆☆☆☆☆
- Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Tylor, Mildred D. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Shane – Schaefer, Jack ☆☆☆☆☆
- Story of My Life – Keller, Helen ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Stranger Came Ashore – Hunter, Mollie ☆☆☆☆☆
- Tales from Shakespeare – Lamb, Charles & Mary ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Thurber Carnival – Thurber, James ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond – Speare, Elizabeth George ☆☆☆☆☆

- Treasure Island – Stevenson, Robert Louis ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Tree Grows in Brooklyn – Smith, Betty ☆☆☆☆☆
- 20,000 Leagues under the Sea – Verne, Jules ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Upstairs Room – Reiss, Johanna ☆☆☆☆☆
- War of the Worlds – Wells, H.G. ☆☆☆☆☆
- Where the Red Fern Grows – Rawls, Wilson ☆☆☆☆☆
- The White Mountains – Christopher, John ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Wizard of Earthsea – LeGuin, Ursula K. ☆☆☆☆☆
- A Wrinkle in Time – L’Engle, Madeleine ☆☆☆☆☆
- The Yearling – Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan ☆☆☆☆☆