<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Across a War-Tossed Sea</em></td>
<td>L. M. Elliott</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
<td>Disney’s Hyperion Books</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>978-1-4231-5755-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Allegra</em></td>
<td>Shelley Hrdlitschka</td>
<td>Realistic Fiction/Romance</td>
<td>Orca</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>$11.25</td>
<td>978-1-4598-0197-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Audacious</em></td>
<td>Gabrielle Prendergast</td>
<td>Poetry / Identity</td>
<td>Orca</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
<td>978-1-4598-0530-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Confederates Don’t Wear Couture</em></td>
<td>Stephanie Kate Strohm</td>
<td>Interpersonal Relations/Fiction</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>$8.99</td>
<td>978-0-547-97258-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charles and Wesley are two brothers from London navigating the cornfields, rivers, and dirt roads near Richmond, Virginia. The two blokes were sent to America to live with a farming family as refuge from the Nazi’s attacks on their homeland during WWII. While they work and play alongside the Ratcliff children, they must not only steer through unfamiliar Americanisms but an eerie isolation from the battle across the sea that makes both feel ashamed for and resent where they are.

The young boys fight a war of their own on American soil—against prejudice for Brits and blacks, attention-seeking bullies, and the temptation to make the German POWs who work on the Ratcliff farm suffer. Along the way, though, they unite with members of their new family, a young black boy named Fred, and even a Native American, realizing that they can learn a thing or two from “how things are done here in America” and that the impact of WWII is not as far-off as they believed.

Ann Marie Dvorak
Nashville, TN

Allegra isn’t like the other girls. Even when she transfers from a public high school to a performing arts academy, she still finds herself at odds with her peers. But when her young, attractive music theory professor, Mr. Rocchelli, begins to take an interest in her, Allegra finally starts to feel like she belongs. She even puts dance, her true passion, on the backburner to pursue a special music composition project with Mr. Rocchelli. As Allegra’s personal life begins to crumble, she discovers a love for composing music that threatens to ruin everything she has left . . . especially when she realizes that she’s falling for Mr. Rocchelli at the same time.

Though this novel is set in a performing arts school, it doesn’t concern itself with petty drama. Instead, it focuses on the complex mind of an extraordinary teenager and, even more, the emotional roller coaster that is one’s first love.

Stacey Oswald
Vero Beach, FL

Raphaelle wants to leave her troubled past behind. When her family moves, she decides to reinvent herself as Ella, a girl who follows rules and fits in. Ella’s new identity works at first. She excels in art and develops a crush on Samir, a boy in her art class. But when both are asked to create art pieces for a schoolwide show, they create controversy as well. A nude self-portrait and a politically charged painting lead to trouble, and Ella wonders if she can ever leave behind her rebellious Raphaelle personality.

Written as a series of poems, *Audacious* explores the angst of being a teen. Ella faces issues regarding family, disease, politics, religion, and love as she navigates her new school and the potential selves she could become. Readers will question what truly audacious behavior looks like as they follow Ella through her decisions and mistakes.

Laura Cockman
Fishers, IN

Libby Kelting is a history nerd set to spend the summer with her boyfriend, Garrett. However, her best friend Dev throws a kink in her summer plans when he recruits Libby as his assistant in selling “Confederate Couture” during a Civil War reenactment in Alabama. Southern boy Beau guides Libby and Dev through the hardcore world of reenactments. Unlike her boyfriend Garrett, Beau is a history buff and can waltz. As Libby falls further into the 1860s with Beau, she begins to question her future with Garrett.

Ultimately, Libby must make a decision that goes deeper than the stereotypical differences of the North and South. Boy Scouts, ghosts, and *Gone with the Wind* references frame Libby’s choice—living in the past or the future. With the help of a fabulous Dev-created wardrobe and Dev himself, Libby will take on the South and find love on a battlefield.

Jaime Grimsley
Crossville, TN
Grim
edited by Christine Johnson
Fantasy/Short Stories
ISBN: 978-0-373-21108-1

A girl's psychic abilities lead her to a classmate's unlikely murderer. A young man embarks on a perilous quest to break a maiden's curse, only to face a surprising confession when his journey concludes. A woman finds herself caving in to the sincerity of her captor, even as she struggles within the confines of her prison.

Grim takes the reader through the voices of 17 protagonists as they tackle the timeless, often grotesque, predicaments first presented in fairy tales from various cultural traditions. The short stories range from meticulous retellings of classic tales to loose interpretations, and take the reader from enchanted high schools to spaceship communities. Steeped in courtships and vice, temptation and sacrifice, Grim's short stories transform enduring questions about human identity and virtue into tales of contemporary relevance.

Jacinda Lee
Shanghai, China

Heartbeat
by Elizabeth Scott
Young Adult Fiction/Romance
ISBN: 978-0-373-21096-1

Ever since her mother's stroke, Emma's life has deteriorated. All the things that Emma once cared about—academic success, a social circle, a family life—are slowly slipping away from her. Then, when she meets Caleb, she begins to realize that, even after death, it might just be possible to learn to love and live again. In Heartbeat, Elizabeth Scott weaves together an authentic narrative voice, raw emotion, and a cast of deeply flawed characters for an unforgettable story about overcoming grief, finding hope, and learning to love. That love can be found in unexpected ways, from deep within and from unexpected places.

Don't Look Back
by Jennifer L. Armentrout
Murder Mystery
ISBN: 978-1-4231-7512-4

After being missing for four days, Samantha wanders out of the woods covered in dirt and blood. Before she disappeared, she took her best friend Cassie with her, and now she has to face the fact that she can't remember what happened to Cassie. Meanwhile, her former best friend, Jordan, is determined to find out what happened to her missing friend. Don't Look Back is a gripping young adult novel that will keep the reader coming back to find out what happens to Sam and why she lost her memory.

Heaven Is Paved with Oreos
by Catherine Gilbert Murdock
Young Adult Fiction/Romance
ISBN: 978-0-547-62538-6

Almost ninth grader, Sarah Zorn, likes the following things: walking her grandmother's dog, Jack Russell George; eating her favorite food of all time, Oreos; and conducting scientific experiments with her best friend, Cassie. But Sarah's life will soon change when a new girl moves in next door, and Sarah's world is turned upside-down. Catherine Gilbert Murdock's Heaven Is Paved with Oreos captures the heartbreaking, yet funny journey of a precocious young girl's foray into the world of broken hearts and first loves.
High & Dry by Sarah Skilton  
Mystery / Substance Abuse  
Amulet Books, 2014, 258 pp., $16.95  
ISBN: 978-1-4197-0929-6

Charlie has not stopped drinking since Ellie broke up with him. He knows alcohol impairs his ability to play on the high school soccer team, but he does not realize how much it impairs his social relationships until he shows up drunk and uninvited to a choir party. At the party, when someone causes a choirgirl to overdose on LSD, accusations of the crime fly toward Charlie. Now Charlie must investigate to find which of his classmates had a real motive to drug somebody and how the students gained access to the illegal hallucinogen.

The mystery intensifies as clues lead Charlie to realize many students, teachers, and their families may be tangled up in the crime. As Charlie finds information that implicates many people he knows, he must decide—with a sober mind—what must be done to protect the people around him.

Laura Cockman  
Fishers, IN

Hot New Thing by Laura Langston  
Fiction/Realistic/Identity  
Orca, 2014, 131 pp., $9.95  

Half White and half Chinese, Lily finds herself not being recognized by either side of her family. Plus, her dream of acting and school do not seem to mingle well in her parents’ eyes. With her Chinese grandmother’s help, she sets out from Vancouver to Hollywood to fulfill her dream after being discovered by a big-name director. When she thinks she is finally reaching her long-dreamed career, she discovers that she might need to make sacrifices that would take her entire body away. Standing on her own ground, she finally finds a balance between her dream, family, and identities.

Through her lively first-person narrative, Langston brings her readers to a teenage girl’s inner world revolving around family, friends, dreams, and the road of finding identity. With Lily’s words, readers see the bright and dark sides of real-world Hollywood, and contemplate racial and identity issues with which Lily struggles as well.

Wanqing L. Apa  
Beijing, P. R. China

Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley  
Historical Fiction  
Harlequin Enterprises, 2014, 384 pp., $17.99  

One of ten brave Black students in Virginia, Sarah takes part in a crucial step toward ending segregation in her southern town—school integration. At her new school, Sarah is confronted with both physical and verbal abuse from almost everyone she encounters, and she must learn to ignore this cruelty in the hallways.

Linda, one of the most popular girls in school, comes from an influential family in town. Raised with segregationist ideals, Linda views the integration endeavor as superfluous and agitative. What these two girls learn about each other and themselves while working on a project together is life-changing.

Told from the perspectives of these two high school seniors, Lies We Tell Ourselves illuminates the very real experiences of the civil rights movement from opposite lenses. Talley’s compelling novel does an excellent job of portraying the sentiments of the segregated South while helping readers identify with the narrators.

Aleezah Merali  
Coral Springs, FL

Lost in Thought by Cara Bertrand  
Realistic Fiction/Supernatural  
Independent Publishers Group, 2014, 282 pp., $11.95  
ISBN: 978-1-935462-94-1

Lainey Young is going crazy. She has migraines and fainting spells . . . brought on by her visions of deaths in the past and future. After moving to a new school in an attempt to “cure” her problem, she soon finds out that her visions of death are not a sign she’s having a mental breakdown—though her budding relationship with local heartthrob Carter Penrose is enough to drive every female around her insane with jealousy. Lainey learns that she is Sententia, a person with psychic gifts beyond the usual.

As Lainey tries to navigate the new challenges of friends, boys, and school, she also faces the difficulty of coming to terms with her extraordinary gifts and their mysterious source. The more Lainey learns about her family history and her own abilities, the more the consequences of her discoveries threaten her newfound home.

Katie Thyen  
Carmel, IN

Clip & File YA Book Reviews
**My Beautiful Hippie**

by Janet Nichols Lynch

Coming of Age/Historical Fiction

Holiday House, 2013, 186 pp., $16.95
ISBN: 978-0-8234-2603-4

A brief interaction with a hippie named Martin while on her way to purchase Cool Whips ends 16-year-old Joni into a nonconformity, which she believes will help her “find herself” in the midst of such a chaotic time in American history.

Readers will immerse themselves in a colorful, radical, yet turbulent world defined by the “Summer of Love” of 1976. Set in the vibrant Haight-Ashbury District in San Francisco, the novel offers an exploration of the movement’s impact on American youth. Joni’s journey through this world highlights the challenges and opportunities that come with embracing a counterculture that defies mainstream norms.

Alexandra Saclarides

Nashville, TN

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**On a Scale from Idiot to Complete Jerk**

by Alison Hughes

Juvenile Fiction

Orca, 2014, 144 pp., $9.95

J. J. Murphy has finally finished his science fair project. He’s gathered the data and is ready to weigh in on the matter of who qualifies as an idiot or a jerk. In this humorous and enlightening book, J. J. provides more rigorous criteria for an ordinary middle school science fair project. The result is a comprehensive outlook on who idiots and jerks are and why some people qualify but others do not. Joining in on a “science” experiment by writing about the world’s most idiotic and jerkiest people, J. J. provides more rigorous criteria for an ordinary middle school science fair project. He’s gathered the data and has come up with a comprehensive outlook on who idiots and jerks are and why some people qualify but others do not.

Anthony DeMaio

Memphis, TN

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**Muckers**

by Sandra Neil Wallace

Historical American Fiction


Hatley, a mining town in Northern Arizona created by the company Eureka Copper, may soon be the casualty of a declining copper market. The team of high school footbal players, including Felix “Red” O’Sullivan, must summon the strength for one final, memorable football season.

Paul E. Binford

Baton Rouge, LA

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**Pinned**

by Sharon G. Flake

Realistic Fiction/Diversity

Scholastic Press, 2012, 228 pp., $17.99
ISBN: 978-0-545-05718-9

Though able and disabled in key aspects of their lives, ninth graders Autumn and Adonis could not be more different. Both become entwined in a relationship that will forever test the boundaries of their own self-control and discovery.

Charlsie Wigley

Anniston, AL
| **Remember Dippy** by Shirley Reva Vernick | Realistic Fiction / Friendship |
| Johnny expects a boring summer when his mom drops him off to stay with Aunt Collette and his cousin Remember. Now his summer job is to watch Remember, who has Autism, while Aunt Collette works. Getting to know Remember well is difficult for Johnny at first, but as the summer progresses, Johnny learns how to be friends with Remember despite their differences. |
| As Remember and Johnny grow closer, they have many summer adventures together: finding a lost ring so the owner of their favorite restaurant can propose, saving a kid from swimming in dangerous riptides, and helping a sick old neighbor back on his feet. Through their relationship, Johnny and Remember learn to be kinder, more helpful people, and stories of their summertime adventures may just inspire readers to reach out to the many different people in their own communities as well. |
| Laura Cockman |
| Fishers, IN |

| **Summer of the Mariposas** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall | Fiction |
| Affected by the instability of an absent father and an overworked mother, *Summer of the Mariposas* shares Olidia and her four younger sisters’ work to understand their lives and the world around them. It takes the help of a decaying dead man and La Llorona, the ghost of a mother accused of killing her children, for the girls to realize that a journey does not make sense until it is over. |
| McCall carefully interlaces the vibrancy of Mexican folklore with the classiness of the canonical to remind readers of the sameness of the human experience, despite the passing of time. She speaks to the cynic in readers and dares them to believe in magic and its power to save. |
| Areli Barron |
| Houston, TX |

| **The Candy Smash** by Jacqueline Davies | Realistic Fiction/Relationships/Poetry |
| In this continuation of the Lemonade War series, Valentine’s Day is coming up for the fourth graders in class 4-0, but siblings Evan and Jessie Treski are not ready. Jessie needs to find a big story for her new newspaper, the 4-0 Forum. Evan needs to finish his love poem assignment without revealing his crush on Megan. When somebody starts leaving candy hearts with personal messages in each student’s desk, Jessie sees a lead into writing an exciting story, while Evan only sees embarrassment. |
| As Jessie investigates the mystery, she finds the story she has been searching for, but writing it may expose her classmates’ secret crushes. Readers will be able to relate to Jessie’s and Evan’s exploration of grade-school love and writing. Throughout the book, readers will learn about poetry and news alongside the siblings and pick up writing techniques to try on their own! |
| Laura Cockman |
| Fishers, IN |

| **The Deepest Blue** by Kim Williams Justesen | Tragedy / Family |
| Mike has not had contact with his birth mother in years. He sees his father, who has raised him, as his best friend, and he sees his father’s girlfriend, Maggie, as the best example of what a mom should be. When Mike’s dad tells him of plans to propose to Maggie, Mike imagines the whole family he has dreamed about. Mike’s father goes to buy a ring, but a car accident prevents him from ever returning. In the aftermath of his tragic death, Mike and Maggie must learn to move forward together. |
| Legal drama ensues when Mike’s absent birth mother appears to try to take him to live with her new family. Mike must fight to be adopted by Maggie. During the battle, he recalls painful memories of his childhood, and he must learn how to accept and move beyond tragedy with the help of loving friends and family. |
| Laura Cockman |
| Fishers, IN |
After the failure of the American Revolution, the revolutionaries must go underground. Charlotte is a 16-year-old girl living in the Catacombs, preparing for the day when she too will join the Resistance and share in the struggle for freedom. She is twenty-four years old and already a leader in the Resistance, where she must not only do her duty to the Resistance, but discover what it means to fall in love.

The Inventor's Secret is an intriguing start to a series that raises the question of what it means to be human while still acting as a juicy page turner riddled with teen angst, plot twists, and sexual tension.

Madelin Otterbein
Coralville, IA

The Testing offers a thrilling picture of a dystopian society whose government tests the limits of its youth in every way. Charbonneau’s gripping account of Cia’s struggle to contend with the challenges she faces throughout The Testing invites the reader to question what actions he or she might take if forced into Cia’s position.

Leslie Douglas
Nashville, TN

The Screaming Staircase introduces the Lockwood & Co. series with equal parts horror and humor. Readers will wonder about the origin of London’s ghost problem, the mysterious and terrorizing presence of the Lockwood & Co. company, and how Lockwood & Co. will solve the haunting of A.J. Lockwood and his agency. Lockwood & Co., an agency dedicated to catching ghosts in London and all of Great Britain, is a team full of the strangest of characters, who are brought together by the haunted staircases of London. 

Laura Cockman
Fishers, IN

Newbery Award Winner
The Giver by Lois Lowry
Young Adult/Dystopian

The Giver is a dystopian novel that explores the concept of a controlled society where individuality is suppressed. The story follows the life of a young boy named Jonas, who is selected to become his community’s receiver of memories. Through his journey, Jonas begins to question the society’s strict control and the true nature of happiness.

J.D. cockman
Indianapolis, IN

The Giver is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that challenges readers to consider the consequences of a mindless society and the importance of individual freedom.
### The Sultan’s Tigers
**by Josh Lacey**
Fiction/Action and Adventure


Tom Trelawney is a teenaged thrill seeker who feels out of place in his suburbanite family. When Tom and his Uncle Harvey discover that one of their ancestors stole a Sultan’s bejeweled tiger statue hundreds of years ago, they set out for India to find the treasure. Along the way, they encounter mercenaries and a billionaire who will do anything to obtain that jewel-encrusted tiger. Tom and Uncle Harvey must figure out a way to get the treasure and escape India alive.

*The Sultan’s Tigers* is everything you want out of an adventure novel—thrilling chases, brutal fights, clever getaways, and even narrower escapes. However, the novel is unique for taking place in India. Lacey does a great job of depicting India’s landscape, lifestyle, history, and culture. Furthermore, Lacey hardly spares the details in his writing, which makes for a fast and exciting read.

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### Tides
**by Betsy Cornwell**
Fantasy


Noah Gallagher has the perfect summer planned out. He and his younger sister Lo have managed to stay at their grandmother’s cottage on the Shoal Islands, and Noah has the internship of his dreams working as a marine biologist. Yet this is all interrupted when Noah meets Mara, a mysterious and enchanting girl unlike any he has ever met.

As the Gallaghers’ magical summer unfolds, so do everyone’s secrets. But when Mara finally shares the truth about her family, she unknowingly places everyone she cares about in danger, leaving Noah to choose between his dreams and the people he loves. Told with charm and magic, Cornwell’s adventure explores the challenges of family, love, self-discovery, and growing up in a world full of the unexpected.

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### The Upside of Ordinary
**by Susan Lubner**
Television/Family/Reality TV

Holiday House, 2012, 136 pp., $16.95
ISBN: 978-0-8234-2417-7

Fame and stardom. Those are 11-year-old Jermaine Davidson’s main goals in life. And what better way to achieve fame than to film a reality television show of her family and friends? Jermaine is excited at first, but soon realizes that her life is pretty boring. She needs to spice it up, so Jermaine creates some thrilling events that make her life appear more action-packed for the camera.

While amusing, this story proves the extreme selfishness of teens. Jermaine’s actions produce humor, yet they hurt a lot of people on the way. Readers see Jermaine’s relationships with her mother and best friend take a turn for the worse. Jermaine also risks a lot, like almost letting her house catch on fire, just to try and enrich her reality show. This novel takes readers into the crazy mind of a tremendously ambitious teenager and does not disappoint us.

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### Unforgotten
**by Jessica Brody**
Sci-fi/Romance

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2014, 399 pp., $17.99

Thanks to Zen, Sera has finally escaped Diotech, the futuristic company that created her. However, Sera’s nightmares remind her that they can never be safe. Sure enough, Kealan, a Diotech agent, discovers the pair hiding in another century. When Zen becomes sick and Kealan has information about his cure, Sera has no choice but to cooperate with the people she vowed to hate. Sera embarks on a mission to save Zen’s life, and in the process discovers secrets about her past that will determine the course of her future.

Sera knows she is different. She isn’t human, and yet she still struggles with human doubts and emotions. Sera wants to be in control of her own fate instead of existing to benefit someone else. And yet, in the end, Sera accepts that she cannot run from Diotech forever and sacrifices her own freedom to protect the ones she loves.

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*Clip & File* YA Book Reviews
**Vampire's Kiss**

by Veronica Wolff

Teen Fiction/Fantasy


Annelise Drew is having a weird semester. Her two best friends seem to be avoiding her and the guy she has a crush on may or may not have a crush on someone else. Her courses make no sense (who needs ... dead. To top it all off, she has been getting a lot of attention from one very mysterious, very attractive vampire.

The second installment in the Watchers trilogy, *Vampire's Kiss*, follows Drew as she continues on her path to becoming a deadly agent for the undead. Filled with plenty of action and all of the romantic possibilities, this book will quench the bloodthirst of any reader—and it might just teach a lesson or two about friendship along the way.

Matt Cutler

Nashville, TN

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**Your Constant Star**

by Brenda Hasiuk

Realistic Fiction

Orca, 2014, 236 pp., $12.95

ISBN: 978-1-4598-0368-8

When Bev Novak finds herself pregnant, she seeks support from her childhood bestfriend, Faye, from whom she has long been estranged. Together they go on a journey to find adoptive parents for Bev's unborn child, a journey that involves a young gold miner, his two young dependents, and the discovery of a two-sided friendship.

Brenda Hasiuk's honest and smart portrayal of the emotional lives of these three Canadian teens is both compelling and refreshing. Readers will easily connect with this story that boldly resists clichés familiar to the genre as it simultaneously tackles difficult topics like teenage pregnancy, mental illness, and family conflict.

Kenan B. Kerr

Gastonia, NC

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**Young Jerry Ford: Athlete and Citizen**

by Hendrik Booraem

History/Biography

William B. Erdmans, 2013, 138 pp., $14.00


In September of 1912 in Harvard, Illinois, Leslie King Jr. was born. This book examines the many changes (including a name change) that took place that young Ford. The book also delves into Ford's life as a young man, including his athletic career and his time as a student at Harvard University. It explores the many challenges (including a name change) that faced Ford on his path to becoming a leader in American politics.

Overall, the book offers a commendably detailed portrait of the young Ford. That said, with the exception of a tumultuous relationship with his biological father, Ford's story offers little in the way of new insights. The book focuses on Ford's political career and his time as a student at Harvard University. It offers a comprehensive look at Ford's life as a young man, including his athletic career and his time as a student at Harvard University.

Dan King

Cherry Hill, NJ