

Recommended Novels for Board Approval 2013



The Fire Chronicles by John Stephens (Lexile 780) (Guided Reading Level: U/V)

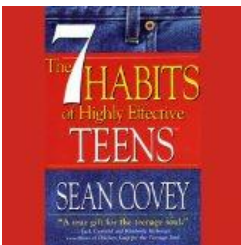
Description: After the tumultuous events of last winter, Kate, Michael, and Emma long to continue the hunt for their missing parents. But they themselves are now in great danger, and so the wizard Stanislaus Pym hides the children at the Edgar Allan Poe Home for Hopeless and Incurable Orphans. There, he says, they will be safe. How wrong he is.

The children are soon discovered by their enemies, and a frantic chase sends Kate a hundred years into the past, to a perilous, enchanted New York City. Searching for a way back to her brother and sister, she meets a mysterious boy whose fate is intricately—and dangerously—tied to her own.

Meanwhile, Michael and Emma have set off to find the second of the Books of Beginning. A series of clues leads them into a hidden world where they must brave harsh polar storms, track down an ancient order of warriors, and confront terrible monsters. Will Michael and Emma find the legendary book of fire—and master its powers—before Kate is lost to them forever?

Exciting, suspenseful, and brimming with humor and heart, the next installment of the bestselling Books of Beginning trilogy will lead Kate, Michael, and Emma closer to their family—and to the magic that could save, or destroy, them all.

Unit of Study: Studying Characters Through Key Details Science Fiction (6th grade)



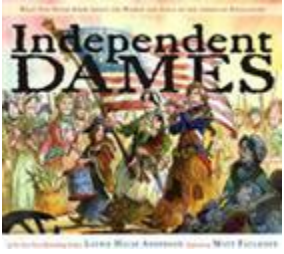
13 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey (Lexile 1110) (Guided Reading Level: V)

Description: Being a teenager is both wonderful and challenging. In *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, author Sean Covey applies the timeless principles of the 7 Habits to teens and the tough issues and life-changing decisions they face. In an entertaining style, Covey provides a step-by-step guide to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, get along with

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their parents, and much more. In addition, this book is stuffed with clever ideas, great quotes, and incredible stories about real teens from all over the world. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* will engage teenagers unlike any other book.

Unit of Study: Changing the World with Words: Powerful Speeches and Their Effects on History Non-Fiction Unit (8th grade)

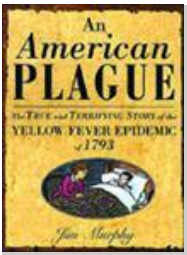


Independent Dames by Laurie Halse Anderson (Lexile: not lexiled) (Guided Reading Level: not rated)

Description: Listen up! You've all heard about the great men who led and fought during the American Revolution; but did you know that the guys only make up part of the story? What about the women? The girls? The dames? Didn't they play a part?

Of course they did, and with page after page of superbly researched information and thoughtfully detailed illustrations, acclaimed novelist and picture-book author Laurie Halse Anderson and charismatic illustrator Matt Faulkner prove the case in this entertaining, informative, and long overdue homage to those independent dames!

Unit of Study: Historical Fiction and Historical Sources: Mentor Text (8th grade)



An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 by Jim Murphy (Lexile 1130) (Guided Reading Level: Z)

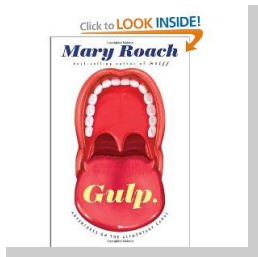
Description: 1793, Philadelphia. The nation's capital and the largest city in North America is devastated by an apparently incurable disease, cause unknown . . . In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical

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beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city--and all his papers--while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege.

Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this book offers a glimpse into the conditions of American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing timely parallels to modern-day epidemics. Bibliography, map, index.

Unit of Study: Informational Reading: Critical Nonfiction Research MentorText (8th Grade)



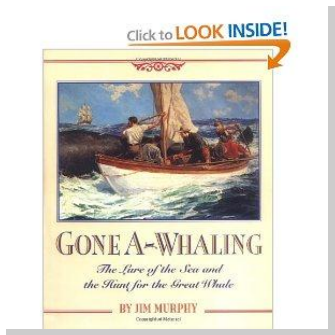
Gulp! by Mary Roach (Lexile: not lexiled) (Guided Reading Level: Z)

Description: "America's funniest science writer" (*Washington Post*) takes us down the hatch on an unforgettable tour. The alimentary canal is classic Mary Roach terrain: the questions explored in *Gulp* are as taboo, in their way, as the cadavers in *Stiff* and every bit as surreal as the universe of zero gravity explored in *Packing for Mars*. Why is crunchy food so appealing? Why is it so hard to find words for flavors and smells? Why doesn't the stomach digest itself? How much can you eat before your stomach bursts? Can constipation kill you? Did it kill Elvis? In *Gulp* we meet scientists who tackle the questions no one else thinks of—or has the courage to ask. We go on location to a pet-food taste-test lab, a fecal transplant, and into a live stomach to observe the fate of a meal. With Roach at our side, we travel the world, meeting murderers and mad scientists, Eskimos and exorcists (who have occasionally administered holy water rectally), rabbis and terrorists—who, it turns out, for practical reasons do not conceal bombs in their digestive tracts.

Like all of Roach's books, *Gulp* is as much about human beings as it is about human bodies.

Unit of Study: Informational Reading: Critical Nonfiction Research 8th grade mentor text

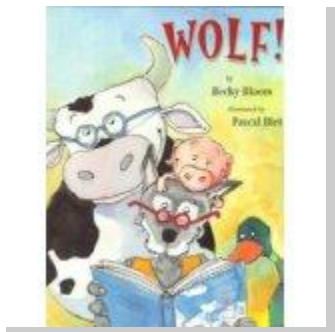
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Gone A-Whaling by Jim Murphy (Lexile 1150) (Guided Reading Level: Z)

Description: In the early days of whaling, whales were plentiful and it seemed that they would always fill the sea. When people realized how much money could be made from whales in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, entire species were wiped out in the rush to hunt these gentle and magnificent creatures. This account is an even-handed portrayal of the exciting, grisly, and sometimes profitable business of pelagic whaling, told from the perspective of young whalers through their detailed journal entries and letters. Glossary, bibliography, index.

Unit of Study: Informational Reading: Critical Nonfiction Research (8th Grade)

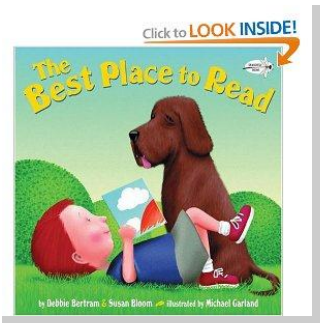


Wolf! by Becky Bloom (Lexile 340) (Guided Reading Level: unlevelled)

Description: Fiction text about a wolf that learns to read with fluency.

Unit of Study: Launching Readers Workshop (1st grade) Mentor Text

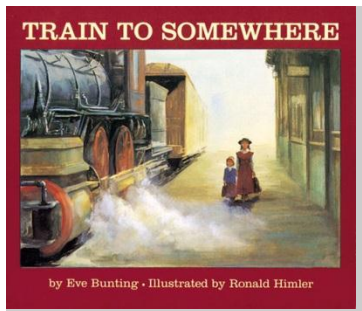
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The Best Place to Read! by Debbie Bertram (Lexile: not lexiled) (Guided Reading Level: unlevelled)

Description: A young child with a new book hunts inside and outside the house before finding the right chair for reading, in a hilarious and heartwarming tale.

Unit of Study: Launching Readers Workshop (1st grade) Mentor Text

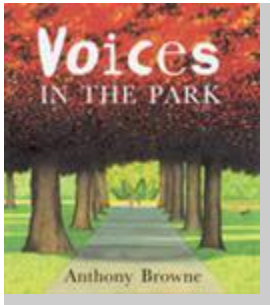


Train to Somewhere by Eve Bunting (Lexile: 440) (Guided Reading Level: Q)

Description: Marianne, heading west with fourteen other children on an Orphan Train, is sure her mother will show up at one of the stations along the way. When her mother left Marianne at the orphanage, hadn't she promised she'd come for her after making a new life in the West? Stop after stop goes by, and there's no sign of her mother in the crowds that come to look over the children. No one shows any interest in adopting shy, plain Marianne, either. But that's all right: She has to be free for her mother to claim her. Then the train pulls into its final stop, a town called Somewhere . . .

Unit of Study: Launching Readers Workshop (4th grade) Readers Workshop Mentor Text

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Voices in the Park by Anthony Brown (Lexile: 560) (Guided Reading Level: unlevelled)

Description: Explore the concepts of perspective and point of view when two children and their respective guardians each describe their experience at the park where the children and their dogs interact.

Unit of Study: Launching Writers Workshop (4th grade) Readers Workshop Mentor Text