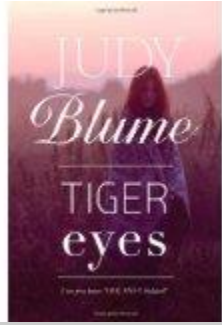


Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

1.



Tiger Eyes by Judy Bloom (Lexile 590) (Guided Reading Level: W)

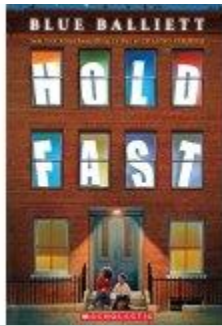
Description: What does it take to recover from tragedy? This masterful Judy Blume novel has a fresh new look. Davey Wexler has never felt so alone. Her father has just been killed—shot in a holdup at the 7-Eleven near their home. And now her mother has transplanted her and her little brother, Jason, to Los Alamos, New Mexico, to stay with family and recover. But Davey is withdrawn, full of rage and fear and loneliness. Then one day, while exploring a canyon, she meets an older boy who calls himself Wolf. Wolf is the only one who understands her—the only one who can read her sad eyes. And he is the one who helps her realize that she must find a way to move forward with her life. Davey is one of Judy Blume's most hauntingly true human beings, capturing the deep ways a person can change that can't be seen—only felt. Her story has been felt, deeply, by readers for decades. (www.amazon.com)

This book is recommended for students that are below benchmark and need a high-interest read.

Basic Subjects: Juvenile Fiction/ Social Issues/ Death and Dying

Unit of Study: Fiction/ Social Issues 7th Grade

2.



Hold Fast by Blue Balliett (Lexile 780) (Guided Reading Level: Y)

Description: From NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author Blue Balliett, the story of a girl who falls into Chicago's shelter system, and from there must solve the mystery of her father's strange disappearance. Where is Early's father? He's not the kind of father who would disappear. But he's gone . . . and he's left a whole lot of trouble behind. As danger closes in, Early, her mom, and her brother have to flee their apartment. With nowhere else to go, they are forced to move into a city shelter. Once there, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers. Because her father hasn't disappeared without a trace. There are patterns and rhythms to what's happened, and Early might be the only one who can use them to track him down and make her way out of

Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

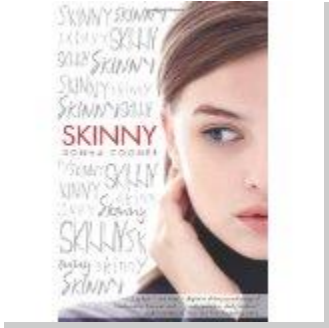
a very tough place. With her signature, singular love of language and sense of mystery, Blue Balliett weaves a story that takes readers from the cold, snowy Chicago streets to the darkest corner of the public library, on an unforgettable hunt for deep truths and a reunited family. (www.amazon.com)

Basic Subjects: Juvenile Fiction/ Mysteries and Detective Stories

Issues: Homelessness & Poverty

Unit of Study: Fiction/ Social Issues 7th Grade

3.



Skinny by Donna Cooner (Lexile 670) (Guided Reading Level: X/Y/Z)

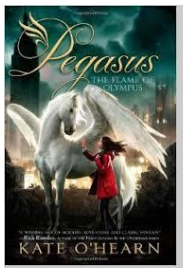
Description: "Deeply moving, totally addictive, utterly fabulous." -- New York Times bestselling author Lauren Myracle This novel kick-started a national conversation on weight, beauty, and transformation. In it, we meet Ever, a fifteen-year-old girl who weighs over 300 pounds and is haunted by a voice in her head she calls "Skinny." Skinny tells Ever she is ugly. Fat. Unlovable. And Ever believes her. When Ever makes the controversial choice to have gastric bypass surgery, she does start losing weight and gains the interest of boys...but Skinny is still there, louder than before. Ever will need to confront that voice before she can truly find, and accept, her own (www.amazon.com)

Basic Subjects: Health & Daily Living/General

Issues: Social Issues/ Friendship

Unit of Study: Fiction/ Social Issues 7th Grade

4.



Pegasus The Flame of Olympus Book 1 in the trilogy by Kate O' Hearn (Lexile 620) (Guided Reading

Level: T/U)

Description: When Pegasus crashes onto a Manhattan roof during a terrible storm, thirteen-year-old Emily's life changes forever. Suddenly allied with a winged horse she'd always thought was mythical, Emily is thrust into the center of a fierce battle between the Roman gods and a terrifying race of

Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

multiarmed stone warriors called the Nirads. Emily must team up with a thief named Paelen, the goddess Diana, and a mortal boy named Joel in order to return Pegasus to Olympus and rescue the gods from a certain death. Along the way, Emily and her companions will fight monsters, run from a government agency that is prepared to dissect Pegasus, and even fly above the Manhattan skyline—all as part of a quest to save Olympus before the Olympic flame burns out. (www.amazon.com)

Basic Subjects:

Issues: Social Issues/Friendship

Unit of Study: Fantasy/ Mythology/Fiction 5th Grade

5.



Pegasus Olympus at War Book 2 in the trilogy by Kate O' Hearn (Lexile 620) (Guided Reading

Level: T/U)

Description: When Pegasus crashes onto a Manhattan roof during a terrible storm, thirteen-year-old Emily's life changes forever. Suddenly allied with a winged horse she'd always thought was mythical, Emily is thrust into the center of a fierce battle between the Roman gods and a terrifying race of multiarmed stone warriors called the Nirads. Emily must team up with a thief named Paelen, the goddess Diana, and a mortal boy named Joel in order to return Pegasus to Olympus and rescue the gods from a certain death. Along the way, Emily and her companions will fight monsters, run from a government agency that is prepared to dissect Pegasus, and even fly above the Manhattan skyline—all as part of a quest to save Olympus before the Olympic flame burns out. (www.amazon.com)

Basic Subjects:

Issues: Social Issues/Friendship

Unit of Study: Fantasy/ Mythology/Fiction 5th Grade

Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

6.  Pegasus Olympus at War The New Olympians Book 3 by Kate O' Hearn (Lexile 620) (Guided Reading Level: unlevelled)

Description: Emily and her companions, including the winged horse, Pegasus, must confront a legion of Olympic enemies in this third book of an action-packed series. When Emily's father and the goddess Diana return from a visit to Earth, they bring with them disturbing news. There's a horse called Tornado Warning that's winning all the races, with times faster than anyone's ever seen. What could this mean? Emily, Joel, Paelen, Pegasus, and the sphinx Alexis return to Earth to investigate—and discover a CRU plot to clone Olympians and Nirads using DNA retrieved from their previous time in the human realm. The CRU has already created dozens of Nirad warriors, Dianas, Paelens, Cupids, and Pegasuses. Now they want to create their own Emily clone—even if the original is killed in the process. Can Emily and her friends put a stop to the CRU's plans before Jupiter finds out and carries through on his own threat to destroy the Earth? (www.amazon.com)

Basic Subjects:

Issues: Social Issues/Friendship

Unit of Study: Fantasy/ Mythology/Fiction 6th Grade

7.  Pegasus The Rise of the Titans (Book 4) by Kate O' Hearn (Lexile 620) (Guided Reading Level:)

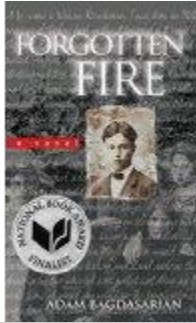
Description: In order to save Olympus, Emily and her winged horse, Pegasus, venture to Hawaii—and a Hawaiian volcano—in this fifth book of an exciting series that puts a modern thrill into ancient mythology. The ancient rivalry between the Olympians and the Titans has been rekindled. However, this time the Titans have a secret weapon—a weapon that rivals the Flame of Olympus. The balance of power is tipped in Saturn's favor now that he has found his own Flame of Titus. Olympus is almost in his grasp! And just when the Olympians need Emily most, she finds her own grip on the flame

Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

weakening. If Emily is going to save Olympus, she will have to save herself first. To do so, she and Pegasus must head to the Diamond Head volcano in Hawaii to track down the one thing that can rescue Olympus...but can they get there before the Titans or the CRU beat them to it? (www.amazon.com)

Unit of Study: Fantasy/ Mythology/Fiction 6th Grade

8.



Forgotten Fire (Book 4) by Adam Bagdasarian (Lexile 1050) (Guided Reading Level:)

Description: It is 1915 and Vahan Kendarian, the pampered youngest son of one of the most influential Armenian families in Turkey, is confident that his privileged world will always include the house he loves, the laughter of his brothers and sisters, a sense of belonging. But when his uncle disappears and his father is taken away, when two brothers are shot before his eyes in the family garden, Vahan's world shatters. "Be steel", his father had always said when something tested his son's character. "Steel is made strong by fire." What is about to occur is Vahan's fire. In the next three weeks he will lose his home and know hunger and thirst for the first time. In the next three years he will become an orphan, a prisoner, a beggar, a servant, a stowaway in order to survive. He will meet and be befriended by the Horseshoer of Baskale, a Turkish governor famous for his practice of nailing horseshoes to the feet of his Armenian victims. He will live in a Turkish village, posing as a deaf mute and falling in love with the daughter of the only man in the village who guesses he is Armenian -- and who is determined to kill him because of it. He will witness the murder and deportation of his neighbors and friends. And he will discover inside himself reserves of strength and courage he did not know existed. Based on the experiences of the author's great-uncle during the Armenian Holocaust, *Forgotten Fire* is the story of one boy's search for the survivor inside himself. It is the story of a lost nation -- a powerful celebration of the resilience of the human spirit during the darkest of times. (www.Lexile.com)

Basic Subjects: Armenian massacres, 1915-1923

Issues: Historical Fiction/ World War 1

Unit of Study: Children of War 8th Grade

Recommended Novels for Board Approval February 2016

9.



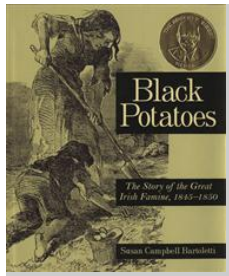
Plastic Pollution by Geof Knight (Lexile 1070) (Guided Reading Level: Z)

Description: Plastic is an incredibly useful and versatile material that offers ease and convenience. Unfortunately it is difficult to recycle and takes a very long time to break down naturally. This book describes plastic pollution, especially as it effects the world's oceans, and offers solutions to the problem. (www.Lexile.com)

Basic Subjects: Science & Nature/ Environmental Conservation

Unit of Study: Nonfiction 7th grade

10.



Black Potatoes by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Lexile 1040) (Guided Reading Level: Y)

Description: A powerful story brings to life the men, women, and children who suffered from starvation, disease, and the loss of family and loved ones during the Great Irish Famine. Also details the many heroes who brought hope to the Irish people. (www.booksource.com)

Basic Subjects: History/ Narrative Nonfiction/ Immigrant Experience

Unit of Study: Nonfiction 7th grade