



## Books for Middle School SRC 2010

### **Youth Fiction (J)**

**Beil, Michael.** The Red Blazer Girls: the Ring of Racamadour.

Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca and Leigh Anne help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left her for her estranged daughter twenty years ago. First in a series. (Booklist Grades 5-8)

**Carey, Benedict.** The Unknowns.

When people start vanishing from a rundown trailer park next to the Folsom Energy Plant, two eleven-year-olds investigate using mathematical clues that were hastily planted by their friend Mrs. Clarke before she disappeared. (SLJ Grades 6-8)

**Falls, Kat.** Dark Life.

Set in an apocalyptic future where rising oceans have swallowed up entire regions and people live packed like sardines on the dry land left, DARK LIFE is the harrowing tale of underwater pioneers who have carved out a life for themselves in the harsh deep-sea environment, farming the seafloor in exchange for the land deed. (VOYA Grades 6-8)

**French, S. Terrell.** Operation Redwood.

In Northern California, Julian Carter-Li and his friends, old and new, fight to save a grove of Redwoods from an investment company that plans to cut them down. (SLJ Grades 4-7)

**LaFleur, Suzanne M.** Love, Aubrey.

While living with her Gram in Vermont, eleven-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother. (SLJ Grades 4-6)

**Potter, Ellen.** Slob.

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed. (SLJ Grades 6-8)

### **Young Adult Fiction (Y)**

**Carman, Patrick.** Skeleton Creek.

Strange things are happening in Skeleton Creek . . . and Ryan and Sarah are trying to get to the heart of it. But after an eerie accident leaves Ryan housebound and forbidden to see Sarah, their investigation takes two tracks: Ryan records everything in his journal, while Sarah uses her video cam to search things out. . .and then email the clips for Ryan to see. (SLJ Grades 6+)

**Cooney, Caroline B.** They Never Came Back.

When fifteen-year-old Cathy decides to carpool from Norwalk to tony Greenwich, Connecticut, to study Latin in summer school, she does not expect the shocking events that occurred five years earlier to suddenly come flooding back into her relatively settled life. (SLJ Grades 6-10)

**Cushman, Karen.** Alchemy and Meggy Swan.

In 1573, the crippled, scorned, and destitute Meggy Swann goes to London, where she meets her father, an impoverished alchemist, and eventually discovers that although her legs are bent and weak, she has many other strengths. (SLJ Grades 5-8)

**Dashner, James.** The Maze Runner.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up in the middle of a giant maze with no memory of his past life. Though the other boys see him as a bad omen, he must work with them if they are ever to escape. (SLJ Grades 6-10)

**Leavitt, Lindsey.** Princess for Hire.

Desi Bascomb has been longing for a bit of glamour in her Idaho life. So when a flawlessly dressed woman steps out of an iridescent bubble and wants to know if Desi would like to become a substitute princess, Desi of course agrees. Desi soon finds out that being a substitute princess is harder than it seems. (Booklist Grades 5-8)

**Haddix, Margaret Peterson.** Sent.

Jonah, Katherine, Chip, and Alex suddenly find themselves in 1483 at the Tower of London, where they discover that Chip and Alex are Prince Edward V and Richard of Shrewsbury, imprisoned by their uncle, King Richard III, but trying to repair history without knowing what is supposed to happen proves challenging. (SLJ Grade 5-8)

**Paterson, Katherine.** The Day of the Pelican.

Having endured so much hardship to escape Kosovo and her Serbian oppressors, Meli Lleshi is happy to start life anew in a small Vermont town, but after the 9/11 attacks, Meli fears what is to come as a result of the anti-Muslim sentiment that has begun to spread in the land of the free. (SLJ Grades 5-8)

**Paulsen, Gary.** Woods Runner.

Samuel, 13, has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. Far from any town, or news of the war against the King that American patriots have begun near Boston. But the war comes to them. Sam's parents are taken away as prisoners. Samuel follows, hiding, moving silently, determined to find a way to rescue them. (SLJ Grades 6-9)

**Smith, Sherri L.** Flygirl.

During World War II, a light skinned African American girl "passes" for white to join the Women Air Force Service Pilots. (SLJ Grades 6-10)

**Sonnenblick, Jordan.** After Ever After.

Jeffrey isn't a little boy with cancer anymore--he's a teen in remission, but the aftereffects of treatment have left him somewhat disabled; his older brother, Steven, who had always been his support and someone he looked to for advice, took off for Africa to find himself--meanwhile, his best friend Tad is hatching a plan that involves a California girl who thinks he's cute. (SLJ Grades 6-9)

**Trigiani, Adrianna.** Viola in Reel Life.

When Viola is sent from Brooklyn to boarding school in Indiana, she overcomes her initial reservations as she makes friends with her roommates, goes on a date, and makes a short film--her first--about the ghost she keeps seeing. (SLJ Grades 7-9)

## **Nonfiction**

**Donovan, Sandy.** Does It Really Take Seven Years to Digest Swallowed Gum?

It takes seven years to digest swallowed gum. A penny placed on a train track can cause a train to derail. The average human consumes four spiders per year while sleeping. You may have heard some of these common sayings or beliefs before. But are they really true? Read this fun book to find out for yourself! **(610 Do)** (Amazon ages 9-12)

**Fleischman, Sid.** The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West.

A biography of the celebrated steamboat pilot, journalist, gold prospector, and novelist focuses on Mark Twain's early days, from his childhood in Missouri to his adventures as a young man in the Wild West. Here, in high style, is the story of a wisecracking adventurer who came of age in the untamed West; an ink-stained rebel who surprised himself by becoming the most famous American of his time. **(B Twain)** (SLJ Grades 5-9)