Amato, Mary. *The Naked Mole-Rat Letters* (670)
Would you ever sneak onto someone else’s email account in order to read and write email messages, pretending to be them? What if the person who you were pretending to be was your own dad? And even worse, you were writing to your dad’s new girlfriend? That is exactly what Frankie decides to do when her father returns from a business trip. See, Frankie doesn’t like the idea that her dad went on a date while he was away, and she likes it even less that he is keeping his new girlfriend a secret. So Frankie decides that she is going to do everything she can, including lying and keeping a lot of her own secrets, to get rid of her dad’s new girlfriend.

Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw* (910)
Dear Mr. Henshaw, I wrote you a letter a long time ago, but you never replied. I really like your books. Now I am doing a book report and need some questions answered about them; can you write me please? And so it begins, as 10-year-old Leigh writes letters to his favorite author. Sometimes he gets a reply, and sometimes not, but through these letters Leigh finds out a lot about life, and himself.

Cunningham, Laura. *The Midnight Diary of Zoya Blume* (gr. 4-7)
Zoya started out life as an orphan in Russia but she was adopted by a single mother and came the the United States when she was four. But some of her old life in Russia still haunts her sometimes. Zoya is 12-years-old now and you would think that her life in Russia would be behind her. But when her mother goes into the hospital for a week, Zoya begins to worry that she will never come home. And that Buka, the old woman who waits in the shadows to snatch orphans, will come to get Zoya. To help herself through these dark days, Zoya writes a diary full of her thoughts and fears. Will Zoya's mother come back or is it more serious than she let on?

Denslow, Sharon Phillips. *All their names were courage* (930)
The war is hitting home for Sallie. First her brother leaves to fight. And now soldiers have come and taken just about everything from the family. Even Sallie's precious horse. When the horse returns a few days later, Sallie begins to think about the brave horses who were helping with the war on both sides. With the help of her friend, she comes up with the idea of creating a book about war horses. Isaac will paint the pictures and Sallie will write to officers asking them about their horses. No one believes that she will hear back from them but Sallie knows that there is something very special about a war horse.
**Fogelin, Adrian. Sorta Sisters (760)**  
Anna and Mica live far away from each other and have never met, but have a lot in common. Anna is a foster child who has been bounced around from place to place. She hopes she will be able to stay with her current foster mother, Miss J, a biology teacher. Mica lives with her biologist father on a houseboat. They go from research project to research project, never staying in the same place either. Both girls have trouble making and keeping friends. But through their love of the natural world and through a series of letters they support each other and become "sorta sisters."

**Hesse, Karen. Letters from Rifka (660)**  
Twelve-year-old Rifka tells her story through a series of letters written to her cousin Tovah. Rifka and her Jewish family have fled Russia for America in 1919. They have a dangerous escape, and meet some unpleasant people along the way. The family contracts and survives typhus, but Rifka is then detained because she has ringworm. The rest of her family goes to America while she stays behind for treatment in Antwerp, Belgium. Finally, Rifka is allowed on the ship and makes the stormy voyage. When she arrives at Ellis Island, however, she is again detained because her hair has not grown back, and she is seen to be an undesirable wife without hair. With her family nearby, there is once again a chance that she will not be allowed into America.

**Klise, Kate. Dying to Meet You (730)**  
I.B. Grumply has spent 20 years with writer’s block. But his publisher, Paige Turner, has finally given him a deadline, so he decides to rent a run-down Victorian mansion in a town called Ghastly! What he doesn’t realize is that he has to share this new home with a boy named Seymour whose parents left him alone to tour Europe and a ghost named Olive C. Spence. As you can imagine, I.B. Grumply is a nasty, grumpy old man, so Seymour and Olive decide to make his life miserable!

**Klise, Kate. Regarding the Fountain (830)**  
"Class, pay attention! You two in the back, listen up as fifth grader are able. You never know what you’ll miss if you donut listen. As you know, Dry Creek Middle School needs a new water fountain. The designer, Ms. Florence Waters, wants input from this class on how the new fountain should look as we are the class most often viewing it, our room being directly by the fountain. So please take out your writing notebooks and write a paragraph or two describing your ideas." And so the comedy of errors begins as letters, memos, and postcards keep flowing back and forth and no one ends up communicating. Mr. N.’s fifth grade class "dives" a little deeper as the waters gets murkier and discovers secrets buried beneath the fountain.
Klise, Kate. Letters From Camp (gr. 5-8)

Mom and Dad,
You've got to get us out of here! When you get this letter, COME IMMEDIATELY!
— Charlie

The brother-sister pairs who arrive for the summer at Camp Happy Harmony are almost too busy fighting with each other to notice how strange the camp really is. Not only are the campers forced to wear bizarre uniforms, eat gross food, and do chores all day, but the members of the family that runs the camp fight constantly—with each other. Are the campers in danger? Or—in spite of sibling wars—do they need to stick together to solve the mystery humming under the surface of Camp Happy Harmony?

Regan, Dian Curtis. The World According to Kaley (910)
"Okay, so I have to write essays for my history class. My teacher, Mr. Serrano, wants me to use lots of facts. Ms. Bartholomew, the librarian, wants me to use 'alternative sources.' I want to use my imagination!

Look inside this notebook and you will find all three—including some doodles and stuff about my own real life. Like the sweetest, softest, most adorable little puppy anyone would ever want to adopt—but I can't because of a new baby in the house. And my creepy cousin Cal, who doesn't have a clue about anything.

Maybe those cave kids had it better. They didn't get into trouble—even when they drew on the walls!"

Skolsky, Mindy. Love, From your Friend Hannah (780)
Hannah is disappointed when her best friend, Aggie, moves away and never writes. She loves to write letters and is determined to find a new friend, a good pen pal, with whom she can share her thoughts. The story takes place in upstate New York, in 1937, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President. This book is told through the lively letters Hannah writes and receives. Some of her pen pals are family members, one is a boy in Kansas who is only writing back because it's a school assignment, and she even writes to some of the famous people of her time. Who will be her true friend? What will she learn with through her correspondence?

Tashjian, Janet. Tru Confessions (920)

Wish #1: To have my own television show.

Wish #2: For Eddie to be un-handicapped. (Eddie is my twin Brother.)

Wish #3: I don't really want anything else this year (except maybe to go out with Billy Meier).

Do wishes really come true? When Trudy Walker sees the ad from the local cable station, she truly believes they do. The station is looking to air demo tapes of shows created by and for teens. This could be Tru’s big Break!

But lately Tru is distracted by Wish #2. She spends hours researching cures for Eddie online and filming his daily routine. If Tru becomes a star—if she just grows up—will she outgrow Eddie? Can she pursue her dreams and still be true to herself? Or is it all just wishful thinking.
Weston, Carol. *Diary of Melanie Martin, or how I survived Matt the Brat, Michelangelo, and the Leaning Tower of pizza* (Gr. 3-6) (series)
Anyone here have a little brother or sister? Does it seem like they get all the attention, and never seem to get into ANY trouble at all? Well, Melanie Martin has a little brother named Matt, and he is a pain and causes lots of trouble—but never gets into trouble. When her family decides to go on a trip to Italy Melanie is bummed because she is told that while they are on their trip Matt is Melanie’s responsibility. Why does SHE have to take care of Matt? It isn’t as if Matt is her kid. Plus, when they get to Italy, she is tired and doesn’t want to go do touristy stuff; can’t she just sleep? Ugh, you would think her parents had planned this trip without thinking about her at all! Things couldn’t get worse—or could they?

Woodson, Jacqueline. *Peace, Locomotion* (860)
Lonnie Collins Motion—known as Locomotion to everyone—misses his baby sister. He writes letters to her, even though he doesn’t send them to her, telling her about his days in his foster home, and life at school; he also writes to remind her of their parents, who died a few years before. Locomotion’s sister is also in a foster home—but they don’t get to see each other except on their birthdays, and Locomotion’s is coming up soon. He can’t wait. But when he finally does get to see her she breaks his heart when she calls her foster mother “mama”; has she already forgotten about their parents? What if she forgets about Locomotion too?

**Good-bye for today** by Peter and Connie Roop

*Laura* doesn’t want to keep a journal, but her mother says she must. After all, writing about the day-to-day life aboard her father’s ship, the *Monticello*, will preserve her memories of a most interesting and at times terrifying, experience.

The *Monticello* is a whaling ship, and Laura’s father has decided to bring Laura, her mother, and her little brother, William, along on this voyage, for as soon as they fill the ship’s hold with whale oil in the Arctic they shall return to their home in New Bedford -- a home that Laura, who was born in the Sandwich Islands, has never seen.

But the long trip to the Arctic is a perilous one indeed. There are terrible storms, increasing cold, the thrill (and pity) of the whale hunt, the loss of crew members, and most of all the threat of ice, which can surround a ship and squeeze it into splinters.

Based on real journals from children who lived aboard nineteenth-century whaling ships
**Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf!** By Jennifer L. Holm

Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or losing the lead role in the ballet recital to her ex-best friend. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June. But it looks like it's shaping up to be that kind of a year! Here's the story of one girl's worst school year ever -- told completely through her stuff.

**Ellie McDoodle** by Barshaw

If you're an artist, you'll understand Ellie McDoodle. When she feels upset, or unhappy all she has to do is pull out her sketch book and draw her way out of her problems. But now Ellie's up against a huge challenge. She has to go camping with her grouchy aunt who spits when she's mad and her three obnoxious cousins including Er-ICK, who looks like a monster in her drawings.

If you love pictures, funny stories, and camping adventures, you'll laugh your way through Ellie's sketchbook.

**Popularity Papers** by Ignatow

Julie and Lydia have one year until middle school. They have one year to figure out what they have to do to be in the popular group-- instead of turning into a low-life like Lydia's sister.

So begins their observations of what the current popular girls do differently.

Gretchen has a blonde streak in her hair, Lisa has a cell phone that takes pictures and videos she puts on the internet. Jane always gets leads in the school play, and Sukie is on the field hockey team.

Soon the girls find themselves trying out for plays, signing up for lacross and mingling with different social circles while looking for the magical “popularity” formula.

The friends begin to drift apart and fight with one another... putting their lifelong friendship in jeopardy. What good is popularity without your best friend?

**Crime Through Time** series books by Bill Doyle

These who-dun-its put the reader in the role of detective. It is up to YOU to solve the mystery! What is especially fun about these books is that every few pages you will find a small glimpse of true facts regarding the time period the book is set it. For example, Nabbed is set in America in 1925, during the time when flappers and bootleggers were part of a huge underground culture. So there are bits of “newspaper clippings” about the time.

**Notes from a Totally Lame Vampire** by Tim Collins

Nigel Mullet isn't your typical teenager... he's a vampire. But unfortunately, when Nigel transformed he didn't become all broody and interesting, and as for super strength and speed... well, forget it! Instead he's got acne, a voice that squeaks, a tendency to break out in a rash (not sparkles!) when exposed to the sun, and absolutely no idea how to talk to girls. (series)
Dear Mister President (series)
Do you ever wish you could write a letter to
the president, and he would write back?
That’s what you find in these books. For
example, In Theodore Roosevelt, Letters
From a Young Coal Miner, a young boy
named Frank, probably your age, has to go
work in the coal mines just like hundreds of
other kids his age. When Frank sends a
short letter to President Roosevelt, he
actually begins a correspondence with the
president that lasts for a long while. He
shares with the president the hardships of
living in a coal town, and the president
shares with Frank the difficulties of being
president. Note also that on many pages
are websites recommended to find out
more about the situations they discuss.

Race for the Sky by Dan Gutman
Johnny’s life changes when his mama gives
him a blank book and tells him to write in
it. At first, Johnny doesn’t think he has
anything interesting to write about in his
journal. When he does put his pencil to the
paper, his spelling and grammar are
terrible. But pretty soon some "dingbatters"
from Ohio, called the Wright brothers,
breeze into town and Johnny starts to have
more of a story to tell. Before he knows it,
he is writing every day, telling about helping
the Wrights build their flying machine. Over
the course of three years, he forms a
friendship with the odd brothers from Ohio,
improves his writing and grammar quite a
bit, and if he waits long enough, he might
even get to fly! (Dan Gutman also writes the
crazy school series)

Skeleton Creek —Carman
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. Sarah uses her videocam and
emails clips to Ryan.

The unique part about this book is that half
of the story is told online via Sarah’s video
clips. It IS possible to understand the book
without the videos, but the website
(located on the last page of the book)
makes the experience more exciting.

Dear Dumb Diary –Benton
Jamie Kelley isn’t always nice . . . but she
promises that everything in her diary is at
least TRUE. From her perspective.
(READ BACK COVER)
Illustrations make this book double-fun.

Attack of the Mutant Underwear
You know how when you give a speech they
always tell you to imagine the audience in
their underpants. Because then they would
be more embarrassed than you? Well
imagine that you are the only one in your
underpants. And that those underpants
were Tweety Bird underpants. Think for a
moment about what that would do to your
social status.
But that is Cody’s past, and now that he is in
5th grade and attending a new school—
things are going to be better. He can make
a new reputation for himself, as long as he
can keep his undies undercover.
**P.S. Longer Letter Later** by Paula Danziger and Ann Martin
Have you ever heard the saying “opposites attract?” Elizabeth and best friend Tara Starr are complete opposites: Elizabeth is shy and quiet, hates to be the center of attention, and Tara is glitzy and glamorous and loves to be in the limelight. But when Tara has to move away, and the best friends are split up. Can they stay best friends even though they are far apart? And what about when disaster strikes?

**Dork Diaries** by Rachel Russell
You know who I’m talking about when I mention the “mean” girl, right? Nikki Maxwell is trying her hardest to stay out of the clutches of mean-girl MacKenzie and her friends. But she isn’t having a whole lot of luck. Especially when she is a complete klutz and gets herself into tight, embarrassing situations that, let’s be honest, were probably her fault from the get-go. Consider this the girl-version of Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

**Amato, Mary. The Naked Mole-Rat Letters** (670)
Would you ever sneak onto someone else’s email account in order to read and write email messages, pretending to be them? What if the person who you were pretending to be was your own dad? And even worse, you were writing to your dad’s new girlfriend? That is exactly what Frankie decides to do when her father returns from a business trip. See, Frankie doesn’t like the idea that her dad went on a date while he was away, and she likes it even less that he is keeping his new girlfriend a secret. So Frankie decides that she is going to do everything she can, including lying and keeping a lot of her own secrets, to get rid of her dad’s new girlfriend.

**Haber, Melissa. Dear Anjali** (Gr. 5-8)
Read First Page
Meredith’s best friend Anjali was the pretty one who knew how to deal with drama, crushes and bullies. Now that she’s gone, Meredith feels lonely and lost and decides to write to her friend every day. She also begins a friendship with her secret crush, Noah, and as their relationship develops, she finds out that Anjali wasn’t so perfect and maybe wasn’t the friend Meredith thought she was.
**Mack, Jeff.** *Clueless McGee* (Gr. 4-6)

PJ McGee wants to be a private investigator just like his dad whom PJ is convinced is away on a secret mission. In a series of hilarious letters to his father, PJ describes his first case: the missing mac and cheese stolen from the school cafeteria. He also details his incredible ninja skills, his problems with chewing gum, run-ins with the school bully and how his actions are misunderstood by his classmates, his mom, his principal and his teachers. If you enjoyed Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Big Nate, Clueless McGee should be your next read. 1st in a new series.

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**Yeardley Smith.** *I Lorelei.* (Gr. 5-8)

Lorelei spends her 6th grade year writing diary entries to beloved, deceased cat, Mud. Plus, she reasons, they’ll also come in handy for her biographers when she grows up and becomes famous. Although many of the entries are humorous, Lorelei has some serious issues to discuss including her parents’ divorce, her frenemy, Jenny, a serious crush, a school bully and a part in the school play where rehearsals are not going well. If you like quirky characters and stories about girls with real problems, give this one a try. Fun fact: written by the woman who is the voice of Lisa Simpson on the Simpson’s

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**Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw.**

**Love From Your Friend, Hannah**

(Gr. 4-6)

Years from now do you think someone could understand your life if they looked at your emails and texts? We definitely get a glimpse into the Great Depression as seen through the eyes of a young girl named Hannah Diamond. The story is told through letters Hannah writes to her friends, relatives and famous people of the time period. It’s fun to read the letters and see how different Hannah’s life is from ours today, but you may be surprised how much you have in common, too.

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**Dear America Series** (Discuss: stories of fictional characters during true historical times in America; boy and girl perspectives; notes and pics in the back. All diary format)

**Dear America: The Journal of William Thomas Emerson**

Food shortages, traitors, deserters, public punishments and spies. This all sounds like the Hunger Games, but this story is based on true historical events. 12-year-old orphan Will finds work with the kind tavern keeper Mr. Wilson and overhears the secret committee meetings held in the tavern on Tuesday evenings. War may be coming and Will is determined to help the Committee, but first he has to gain their trust.
Trapped: The 2031 Journal of Otis Fitzmorgan by Bill Doyle
Crime Through Time Series

Sci-fi and mystery combine in this story from the Crime Through Time Series. A statue aboard the Space Elevator has been stolen and all the adults have been infected with a virus. Meanwhile the communications system is down. It’s up to Otis Fitzmorgan of the famous Fitzmorgan and Moorie detective families to solve this outer space mystery before it’s too late! Along the way you’ll learn about real investigative techniques used to solve true-life cases.

Attack of the Mutant Underwear
By Tom Birdseye
You know how when you give a speech they always tell you to imagine the audience in their underpants. Because then they would be more embarrassed than you? Well imagine that you are the only one in your underpants. And that those underpants were Tweety Bird underpants. Think for a moment about what that would do to your social status.

But that is Cody’s past, and now that he is in 5th grade and attending a new school—things are going to be better. He can make a new reputation for himself, as long as he can keep his undies undercover.

The Popularity Papers: The Long Distance Dispatch Between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang by Amy Ignatow

Lydia and Julie spent all their previous school year documenting how to be popular and this year they’re determined to put their lessons to work as they enter junior high. Before they even get the chance though, Lydia’s mom makes the announcement that the family will be moving to England for six months! Now the girls must learn to navigate middle school and a foreign country without each other.

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Have you ever heard the saying “opposites attract?” Elizabeth and best friend Tara Starr are complete opposites: Elizabeth is shy and quiet, hates to be the center of attention, and Tara is glib and glamorous and loves to be in the limelight. But when Tara has to move away, and the best friends are split up. Can they stay best friends even though they are far apart? And what about when disaster strikes?

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If you love pictures, funny stories, and camping adventures, you'll laugh your way through Ellie's sketchbook.

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Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or losing the lead role in the ballet recital to her ex-best friend. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June. But it looks like it's shaping up to be that kind of a year! Here's the story of one girl's worst school year ever -- told completely through her stuff.