Al Capone Does My Shirts (or any book in the series)  *Gennifer Choldenko*  
GRL: S-T
Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

**Sports Classic (any book in the series)**  *Matt Christopher*  
GRL: R-X
Author Matt Christopher describes real life struggles in this action packed series filled with athletic adventure.

Cosmic  *Frank Cottrell Boyce*  
GRL: S-T
Twelve-year-old Liam Digby is very tall – so tall that he is often mistaken for an adult. He always considered this a problem, until he realizes that there are advantages, such as being mistaken for a teacher, or getting to take a Porsche out for a test drive. Liam, pretending to be a dad, and his friend Florida, posing as his daughter, win what they think is a vacation package. They soon find themselves stranded in space, with Liam as the only “adult” chaperone.

Extra Credit  *Andrew Clements*  
GRL: W
Abby will have to repeat sixth grade unless she meets some specific conditions, including taking on an extra-credit project to find a pen pal in a distant country. When Abby’s first letter arrives at a small school in Afghanistan, the village elders agree that any letters going back to America must be written well. In English. And the only qualified student is a boy, Sadeed Bayat. As letters flow back and forth between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of central Asia, a small group of children begin to speak and listen to one another. And in just a few short weeks, they make important discoveries about their communities, about their world, and most of all, about themselves.

**Love That Dog or Hate That Cat**  *Sharon Creech*  
GRL: T
Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won’t stop giving her class poetry assignments – and Jack can’t avoid them. Then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say. This book is written in verse, and the poems Jack’s teacher introduces are at the back of the volume.

**Spiderwick Chronicles: The Field Guide, The Seeing Stone, Lucinda’s Secret, The Ironwood Tree, or The Wrath of Mulgareth**  *Holly Black and Toni DiTerlizzi*  
GRL: T
The Grace children, Jared, Simon, and Mallory, have discovered a field guide to fairies and other magical creatures at their Aunt Lucinda's house. Suddenly, they find themselves the victims of mean tricks designed to get them to give up the book.
Elephant Talk: The Surprising Science of Elephant Communication  
Ann Downer  
Scientists have long been puzzled by elephant behavior, such as the way they suddenly regroup at the end of each day. Biologists have determined that elephants have a fascinating social system and a complex means of communication. This non-fiction book, with plenty of photos, is for those who enjoy science and love animals.

Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart  
Candace Fleming  
In alternating chapters, readers move back and forth between Amelia's life (from childhood up until her last flight) and the exhaustive search for her and her missing plane. With incredible photos, maps, and handwritten notes from Amelia herself—plus informative sidebars tackling everything from the history of flight to what Amelia liked to eat while flying (tomato soup)—this unique nonfiction title is tailor-made for middle graders.

Magnificent 12 (any book in the series)  
Michael Grant  
Mack MacAvoy suffers from a serious case of being average—average looks, average grades, average parents who barely notice him. And then, one day, something incredibly strange happens to Mack. A three thousand-year-old man named Grimluk appears in the boys' bathroom to deliver some startling news. Mack is one of the Magnificent 12. An evil force is on its way, and it’s up to Mack to track down eleven other twelve-year-olds in order to stop it. This series has a companion web site and an author who is dedicated to making kids laugh. The books, so far, are The Call, The Trap, and The Key.

The Brooklyn Nine  
Alan Gratz  
Baseball is in the Schneider family blood. Over the years this family has dodged bullets on the battlefield, pitched perfect games, and coped with the horrible loss of family and the Brooklyn Dodgers. In nine innings, this novel tells the stories of nine successive Schneider kids and their connection to Brooklyn and baseball.

Babe and Me: Baseball Card Adventure (or any book in the series)  
Dan Gutman  
With their ability to travel through time using vintage baseball cards, Joe and his father have the opportunity to find out whether Babe Ruth really did call his shot when he hit that home run in the third game of the 1932 World Series against the Chicago Cubs.

The Abduction (or any book in the Kidnapped series)  
Gordon Korman  
Aiden teams up with the FBI to track down his sister Meg, who was kidnapped while they were walking home from school.

Gossamer  
Lois Lowry  
While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds.

Good Night Maman  
Norma Fox Mazer  
After spending years fleeing from the Nazis in war-torn Europe, twelve-year-old Karin Levi and her older brother Marc find a new home in a refugee camp in Oswego, New York.
Wonder  *RJ Palacio*  [GRL: U]
August Pullman has been homeschooled due to a facial deformity that has, until now, prevented him from attending a mainstream school. As he enters fifth grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can’t get past Auggie’s extraordinary face. *Wonder,* a *New York Times* bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie’s point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart, hope, empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Middle School (any book in the series)  *James Patterson*  [GRL: V]
Each book in this series humorously deals with the anxiety, frustration, adjustment, and just plain “fitting in” in middle school. Author James Patterson portrays his main characters in a very funny manner, with witty dialogue describing how they navigate through middle school from their own personal perspective. Silly illustrations and jokes are peppered throughout each story and the books do not have to be read in any order.

Ninth Ward  *Jewel Parker Rhodes*  [GRL: Q]
Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward. She doesn’t have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it’s up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

The Kane Chronicles (any book in the series)  *Rick Riordan*  [GRL: Y]
Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion. The doctor’s children, Carter and Sadie, must embark on a dangerous journey, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs. The books in this series are *The Red Pyramid,* *The Throne of Fire* and *The Serpent’s Shadow.*

Promises to Keep: How Jackie Robinson Changed America  *Sharon Robinson*  [GRL: Z]
This is a warm, intimate portrait of Jackie Robinson, America's sports icon, told from the unique perspective of a close family member, his only daughter. Sharon Robinson shares memories of her famous father in this loving biography of the man who broke the color barrier in baseball. Jackie Robinson was an outstanding athlete, a devoted family man, and a dedicated Civil Rights activist. The author explores the fascinating circumstances surrounding Jackie Robinson's breakthrough. She also tells the off-the-field story of Robinson's hard-won victories and the inspiring effect he had on his family, his community, and his country. This book includes never-before-published letters by Jackie Robinson, as well as photos from the Robinson family archives.

Cleopatra Rules! The Amazing Life of the Original Teen Queen  *Vicky Alvear Schecter*  [GRL: Y]
You may think you know Cleopatra, but you will discover much more about her in this lively, informative, and interesting portrait of Egypt's most famous pharaoh. Written in modern teenage talk with catchy chapter titles and lots of pictures, this non-fiction book is history at its best and absolutely most fun-to-read.
Liar & Spy  *Rebecca Stead*  **GRL: U**
Seventh-grader Georges (the “s” is silent) moves into a Brooklyn apartment building and meets Safer, a twelve-year-old, self-appointed spy. Georges becomes Safer’s first spy recruit. His assignment? Tracking the mysterious Mr. X, who lives in the apartment upstairs. But as Safer becomes more demanding, Georges starts to wonder if things are going too far.

I Survived (any book in the series)  *Lauren Tarshis*  **GRL: R-V**
Each book takes the reader into the heart of history’s most thrilling and terrifying events, including the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863, the San Francisco Earthquake in 1906, the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, the Shark Attacks of 1916, the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the attacks on September 11, 2001. Each book is fast-paced and tells a story of triumph over disaster.

Scientists in the Field (any book in the series)  *various authors*  **GRL: W-Z**
Far from the research laboratory, these books show firsthand adventures in the great outdoors—adventures with a purpose. From climbing into a snake den with thousands of slithering snakes to tracking wolves, swimming with hammerhead sharks, and collecting bugs, readers experience the thrill of discovering the unknown. Filled with beautiful photos, these books will excite those students already in love with science, and inspire those who have not yet been bitten by the science bug.