

## 6TH - 8TH

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First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

—1 Timothy 2.1-6

**90 Miles to Havana.** Enrique Flores-Galbis. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2010.

*When unrest hits the streets of Havana, Cuba, Julian's parents must make the heartbreaking decision to send him and his two brothers away to Miami via the Pedro Pan operation.*

**All of the Above.** Shelley Pearsall. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2006.

*Four urban middle school students, their teacher, and other community members relate how a school project to build the world's largest tetrahedron affects the lives of everyone involved.*

**Countdown.** Deborah Wiles. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 2010.

*Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head.*

**The Crazy Man.** Pamela Porter. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2005.

*Twelve-year-old Emaline Bitterman loves her home on the prairies. She loves helping her father in the fields and her dog, Prince. But farming in southern Saskatchewan in the mid 1960s is not easy.*

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**The Diamond of Darkhold.** Jeanne DuPrau. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2008.

*When a roamer trades them an ancient book with only a few pages remaining, Lina and Doon return to Ember to seek the machine the book seems to describe in hopes that it will get their new community, Sparks, through the winter.*

**Diamond Willow.** Helen Frost. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008.

*In a remote area of Alaska, twelve-year-old Willow helps her father with their sled dogs when she is not at school, wishing she were more popular, all the while unaware that the animals surrounding her carry the spirits of dead ancestors and friends who care for her.*

**From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White.** Beverley Olson Buller. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2007.

*The biography of two-time Pulitzer Prize winner William Allen White, describing the life and family relationships of the distinguished Kansas citizen for whom a children's book award named in his honor is given each year.*

**The Game of Silence.** Louise Erdrich. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

*Her name is Omakayas, or Little Frog, because her first step was a hop, and she lives on an island in Lake Superior. It is 1850, and the lives of the Ojibwe have returned to a familiar rhythm and to their cozy cedar log cabins near the town of LaPointe before the first snows.*

**Heart of a Shepherd.** Rosanne Parry. New York: Random House Children's Books, 2009.

*Ignatius "Brother" Alderman, nearly twelve, promises to help his grandparents keep the family's Oregon ranch the same while his brothers are away and his father is deployed to Iraq, but as he comes to accept the inevitability of change, he also glimpses the man he is meant to be.*

**Meet Christopher: An Osage Indian Boy from Oklahoma.** Genevieve Simermeyer. Tulsa, OK: National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, in Association with Council Oak Books, 2008.

*This book celebrates the Osage Indian tribal culture through the daily life of Christopher Cote.*

**Return to Sender.** Julia Alvarez. New York: Knopf, 2009.

*After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, eleven-year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.*

**Rules.** Cynthia Lord. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006.

*Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence, but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.*

**Singing Hands.** Delia Ray. New York: Clarion Books, 2006.

*In the late 1940's, twelve-year-old Gussie, a minister's daughter, learns the definition of integrity while helping with a celebration at the Alabama School for the Deaf – her punishment for misdeeds against her deaf parents and their borders.*

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**Sweetgrass Basket.** Marlene Carvell. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2005.

*Two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, established in 1879 to educate Native Americans, as they try to assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing.*

**Turtle in Paradise.** Jennifer L. Holm. New York: Random House, 2010.

*In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida.*

**The Wednesday Wars.** Gary D. Schmidt. New York: Clarion Books, 2007.

*During the 1967 school year, when all his classmates go to Catechism or Hebrew school on Wednesday afternoons, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.*

**When the Whistle Blows.** Fran Cannon Slayton. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 2009.

*Jimmy Cannon tells about his life in the 1940s as the son of a West Virginia railroad man, loving trains and expecting one day to work on the railroad like his father and brothers.*

**When You Reach Me.** Rebecca Stead. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2009.

*By sixth grade, Miranda and her best friend, Sal, know how to navigate their New York City neighborhood. They know where it's safe to go and who to avoid.*

**Windfall.** Sara Cassidy. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book, 2011.

*Grieving the loss of a local homeless man and her family's apple tree, thirteen-year-old Liza seeks healing through gardening.*

**Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures.** Brian Selznick. New York: Scholastic, 2011.

*Having lost his mother and his hearing in a short time, twelve-year-old Ben leaves his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he never knew in New York City. There he meets there Rose, who is also longing for something missing from her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures.*

**Yellow Star.** Jennifer Roy. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

*From 1939, when Sylvia is four-and-a-half-years-old, to 1945 when she has just turned ten, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive in Poland's Lodz Ghetto during the Nazi occupation.*