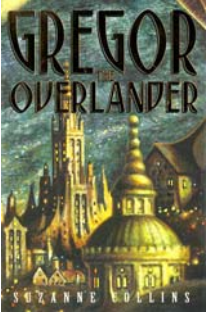


Best of Sunshine State Past



Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

AR Level 4.8 --- 311 pages

When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy..

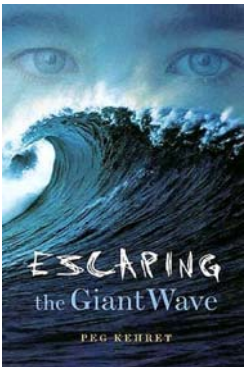
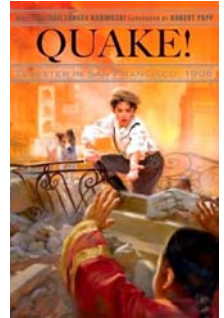
Fantasy - Adventure - Missing Persons

Quake! Disaster in San Francisco, 1906 by Gail Karwoski

AR Level 4.7 --- 153 pages

Tells the story of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake as seen through the eyes of Jacob, a thirteen-year-old Jewish boy who lives in a boarding house with his father and younger sister.

Earthquakes - Immigrants - Historical Fiction - Multicultural Stories



Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret

AR Level 4.7 --- 151 pages

When an earthquake creates a tsunami while thirteen-year-old Kyle is babysitting his sister during a family vacation at a Pacific Coast resort, he tries to save himself, his sister, and a boy who has bullied him for years.

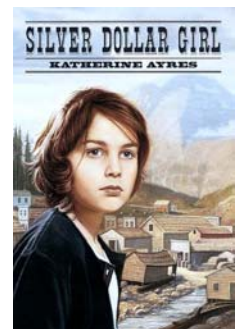
Tsunamis --- Earthquakes --- Bullies --- Brothers and Sisters

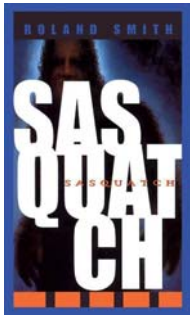
Silver Dollar Girl by Kathryn Ayres

AR Level 4.8 --- 195 pages

In 1885, unhappy living with her aunt and uncle in Pittsburgh, Valentine Harper disguises herself as a boy and runs away to Colorado determined to find her father who has gone there in search of gold.

Historical Fiction --- Frontier and Pioneer Life --- Determination





Sasquatch by Roland Smith

AR Level 4.5 --- 188 pages

Thirteen-year-old Dylan follows his father into the woods on the slopes of Mount St. Helens, which is on the brink of another eruption, in an attempt to protect the resident Sasquatch from ruthless hunters.

Volcanoes --- Mt. St. Helens Eruption --- Mythical Beings (Bigfoot)

Saving Lilly by Peg Kehret

AR Level 5.1 --- 148 pages

Sixth-grader Erin Wrenn is determined to save an elephant named Lilly from being sold by a circus to a hunting park.

Animals - treatment --- School Stories



The Ghost in Room 11 by Betsy Byars

AR Level 4 --- 112 pages

When his family moves to a small town near Milwaukee, Matt's efforts to fit into his new fourth-grade class are complicated by his poor spelling and his encounter with the ghost of one of the school's former teachers.

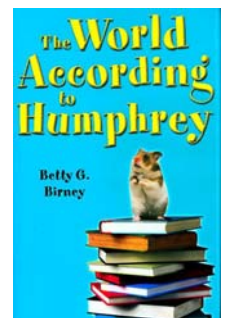
Ghost Stories --- School Stories

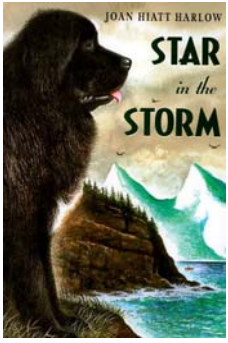
The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney

AR Level 4.2 --- 124 pages

Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, learns that he has an important role to play in helping his classmates and teacher.

Pets --- School Stories





Star in the storm by Joan Hiatt Harlow

AR Level 4.4 --- 150 pages

In 1912, fearing for the safety of her beloved Newfoundland dog Sirius because of a new law outlawing non-shepherding dogs in her Newfoundland village, twelve-year-old Maggie tries to save him by keeping him hidden.

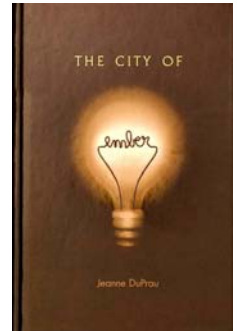
Dog Stories --- Historical Fiction - Canada --- Determination

The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau

AR Level 5 --- 270 pages

In the city of Ember, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a Messenger to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.

Fantasy - future cities --- Adventure



The Elevator Family by Douglas Evans

AR Level 4 --- 87 pages

The four members of the Wilson family decide to spend their holiday in one of the elevators at the San Francisco Hotel.

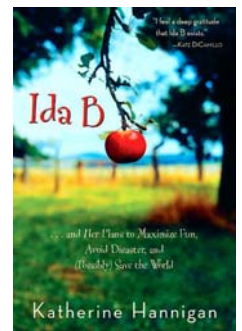
Funny Stories --- Families

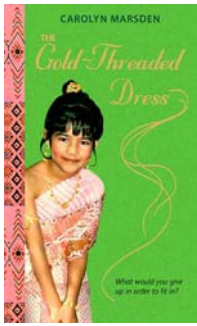
Ida B...and her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World by Katherine Hannigan

AR level 5.3 --- 246 pages

In Wisconsin, fourth-grader Ida B spends happy hours being home-schooled and playing in her family's apple orchard, until her mother begins treatment for breast cancer and her parents must sell part of the orchard and send her to public school.

Family Stories --- School Stories





The Gold-Threaded Dress by Carolyn Marsden

AR Level 4.6 --- 73 pages

When Oy and her Thai American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different.

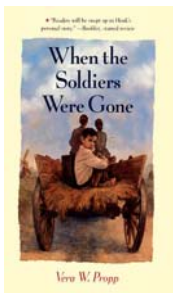
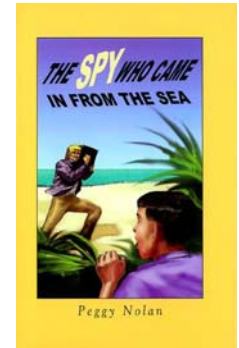
Multicultural --- Friendship --- School Stories

The Spy Who Came in from the Sea by Peggy Nolan

AR level 5.2 --- 129 pages

A fourteen-year-old moves to Florida at the height of World War II to join his father, a Navy seaman, and soon develops such a reputation for exaggeration that when he announces having seen an enemy spy land on the beach, no one believes him.

World War II stories --- Spies --- Adventure



When the Soldiers were Gone by Vera Propp

AR Level 3.5 --- 101 pages

After the German occupation of the Netherlands, Benjamin leaves the Christian family with whom he had been living and reunites with his real parents who returned from hiding.

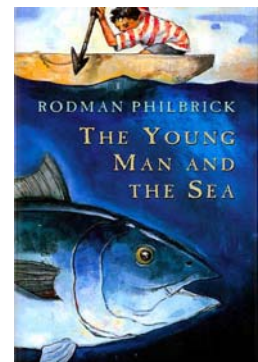
World War II --- Jews --- Historical Fiction --- Family Stories

The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick

AR Level 4.5 --- 192 pages

After his mother's death, twelve-year-old Skiff Beaman decides that it is up to him to earn money to take care of himself and his father, so he undertakes a dangerous trip alone out on the ocean off the coast of Maine to try to catch a huge bluefin tuna.

Adventure --- Fathers and Sons





Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

AR level 5.3 --- 262 pages

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.

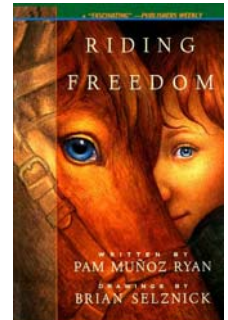
Immigrants --- Historical Fiction, Great Depression --- Family Stories

Riding Freedom by Pam Muñoz Ryan

AR Level 4.5 --- 138 pages

A fictionalized account of Charley (Charlotte) Parkhurst who ran away from an orphanage, posed as a boy, moved to California, and fooled everyone by her appearance.

Historical Fiction --- Orphans --- Horse Stories



Smart Dog by Vivian Vande Velde

AR Level 5.5 --- 146 pages

Fifth grader Amy finds her life growing complicated when she meets and tries to hide an intelligent, talking dog who has escaped from a university lab.

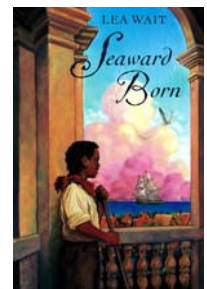
Dog Stories

Seaward Born by Lea Wait

AR Level 4.5 --- 156 pages

In 1805, a thirteen-year-old slave and his friend make a dangerous escape from Charleston, S.C. and stowaway to head north toward freedom.

Slavery - Fiction --- Fugitive slaves --- Historical Fiction --- Sailing Adventures



Eye of the Great Bear by Bill Wallace

AR Level 4.3 --- 161 pages

Eleven-year old Bailey Trumbull proves his courage when he confronts a bear in Montana.

Bears - fiction --- Courage

