



Belleville Area District Library's Best Bets for 5th and 6th Grade

Alexander, Lloyd. *Westmark*

Falling in with a roguish doctor, his dwarf attendant and an urchin girl, Theo embarks on an unforgettable adventure in the kingdom of Westmark.

Armstrong, William. *Souder*

Angry and humiliated after his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young African-American boy grows in understanding by learning to read and grows in courage with the help of his devoted dog, Souder.

Babbitt, Natalie. *Eyes of the Amaryllis*

When eleven-year-old Jenny goes to stay with her widowed grandmother who lives by the seaside, she learns a great deal about the nature of love and the ways of the sea.

Beatty, Patricia. *Turn Homeward, Hannalee*

Twelve-year-old Hannalee Reed, forced to relocate in Indiana along with other Georgia millworkers during the Civil War, leaves her mother with a promise to return home as soon as the war ends.

Blos, Joan. *A Gathering of Days*

The journal of a 14-year-old girl, kept the last year she lived on the family farm, records daily events in her small New Hampshire town.

Bunting, Eve. *Spying On Miss Muller*

Jessie and her best friends in boarding school have always loved their teacher, Miss Müller. But ever since their country, Ireland, went to war with Germany, they don't feel the same way.

Byars, Betsy. *Summer of the Swans*

A teen-age girl gains new insight into herself and her family when her mentally handicapped brother gets lost.

Byers, Betsy. *The Not-Just-Anybody Family*

With a young brother in the hospital, a grandfather in jail, and their mother traveling with a rodeo, Maggie and Vern try to settle family problems.

Cassedy, Sylvia. *Behind the Attic Wall*

In the bleak, forbidding house of her great-aunts, neglected twelve-year-old orphan Maggie hears ghostly voices and finds magic that awakens in her the capacity to love and be loved.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham--1963*

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *The Apprenticeship of Lucas Whitaker*

After his family dies of consumption in 1849, twelve-year-old Lucas becomes a doctor's apprentice.

Fleischman, Sid. *The Whipping Boy*

A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Fletcher, Ralph. *Fig Pudding*

Eleven-year-old Cliff is the oldest of six kids in a family that does everything in a big way--whether they're fighting, laughing, playing, eating, or celebrating the holidays.

George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*

Escaping from an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl gets lost on the Alaskan tundra and is befriended by a wolf pack.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Lily's Crossing*

Lily's blissful summer of 1944 comes to a rude halt when her father is drafted into the military.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The House of Dies Drear*

Thirteen-year-old Thomas and his family try to unravel the secrets of their new home, which was once a stop on the Underground Railroad.

Kjelgaard, Jim. *Big Red*

From the moment Danny sees the beautiful Irish setter, he knows Red is the dog for him.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

It was a wild, stormy night when the unearthly visitor arrived to change the lives of Meg, her small brother, Charles, and their scientist mother.

McKay, Hilary. *Dog Friday*

Ten-year-old Robin Brogan is determined to keep the dog he finds abandoned on the beach from being impounded by the police.

O'Brien, Robert. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*

There's something very strange about the rats living under the rosebush at the Fitzgibbon farm. But Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with a sick

child, is in dire straits and must turn to these exceptional creatures for assistance.

O'Dell, Scott. *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Unintentionally left behind by members of her California Native American tribe, Karana survives alone on an island by building shelter, making weapons, finding food, and fighting her enemies, the wild dogs.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*

Jesse's colorless rural world expands when he becomes fast friends with Leslie, the new girl in school. But when Leslie drowns trying to reach their special hideaway, Terabithia, Jesse struggles to accept the loss of his friend.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*

The mysterious death of an eccentric millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

Rawls, Wilson. *Where the Red Fern Grows*

A young boy living in the Ozarks achieves his heart's desire when he becomes the owner of two redbone hounds and teaches them to be champion hunters.

Speare, Elizabeth George. *Sign of the Beaver*

Until the day his father returns to their cabin in the Maine wilderness, 12-year-old Matt must try to survive on his own.

Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*

It takes the events of one turbulent year--the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she is black--to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood.