



Belleville Area District Library's 5th and 6th Grade *Best Bets Too!*

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks.*

The four Penderwick sisters, along with their absentminded professor dad and the family dog, enjoy an adventurous summer in a cottage on the Arundel estate, complete with a sprawling garden and a treasure-filled attic.

Bode, N. E. *The Anybodies.*

Though a hospital error left Fern to be raised by the tragically dull Drudgers, her biological parents were Anybodies--professional shapeshifters. When 12-year-old Fern reunites with her father, she learns that his transforming abilities have mysteriously disappeared. In their quest to restore his powers Fern discovers a talent of her own: by shaking books, she can make elements of the stories tumble into the real world.

Broach, Elise. *Shakespeare's Secret.*

Sixth-grader Hero's Shakespearean name prompts teasing in her new school, so she distracts herself by befriendng elderly neighbor Mrs. Roth and the legend of the enormous diamond rumored to be hidden in Hero's new house. Helped by the most popular boy in school, can Hero uncover the connections between the missing diamond, the mysterious Mrs. Roth, and the link to Shakespeare?

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander.*

When Gregor falls through a grate in the laundry room of his apartment building, he hurtles into the dark Underland, where spiders, rats, cockroaches coexist uneasily with humans. Gregor wants no part of it -- until he realizes it's the only way to solve the mystery of his father's disappearance.

Cooper, Susan. *The Dark is Rising.*

On his 11th birthday, Will Stanton discovers that he is the last of the Old Ones, immortals dedicated to keeping the world safe from the forces of evil, the Dark. He is plunged into a quest for the six magical Signs that will one day aid the Old Ones in the final battle between the Dark and the Light.

Creech, Sharon. *Love That Dog.*

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher won't stop giving her class poetry assignments, and Jack can't avoid them. Then something amazing happens: the more Jack writes, the more he has something to say.

Going, K.L. *The Liberation of Gabriel King.*

Small for his age, Gabriel, 10, is scared of the bullies in his all-white trailer park in small-town Georgia in 1976. His tough best friend, Frita, the only black kid in his class, helps him to overcome his fear, and he's able to stand with her when the Klan threatens.

Horvath, Polly. *The Trolls.*

When the babysitter cancels at the last minute, an aunt the Anderson children have never met before comes from Canada to babysit while their parents are on a trip to Paris. Every night, the hilarious and magical stories told by Aunt Sally adds another piece to a very suspect family history.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted.*

Ella struggles against the childhood curse placed on her by a fairy that forces her to obey any order given to her. Ella's quest to break the curse, outwit her wicked stepfamily, and charm the prince is a new twist on the classic Cinderella story.

Lord, Cynthia. Rules.

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life, which is near impossible when you have a younger brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. But the summer Catherine makes two new friends - Jason, who is confined to a wheelchair, and Kristi, the next-door neighbor she's always wished for- it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

Lowry, Lois. Number the Stars.

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think of life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching through town. When the Jews of Denmark are "relocated," Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be one of the family. Soon Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life.

Martin, Ann M. A Corner of the Universe.

The summer of 1960, when Hattie turns twelve, she meets her Uncle Adam, the childlike uncle she never knew she had. Hattie's grandparents act embarrassed whenever he is around, and peers in her small town laugh at him. Hattie is continually amazed by his outlandish antics, moved by his sudden mood changes and secretly wonders if she and Adam might be kindred spirits.

Paulsen, Gary. Hatchet.

Thirteen-year-old Brian Robeson is on his way to visit his father when the single-engine plane in which he is flying crashes. Suddenly, Brian finds himself alone in the Canadian wilderness with nothing but a tattered Windbreaker and the

hatchet his mother gave him as a present. It will take all his know-how, determination and more courage than he knew he possessed to survive.

Sachar, Louis. Holes.

Stanley Yelnats has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something.

Schmidt, Gary D. Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy.

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot.

Spinelli, Jerry. Maniac Magee.

A homeless orphan becomes a legend in a town divided by racism in this sometimes funny, sometimes moving, always exciting story. Jeffrey Magee's exploits may have made him famous, but reconciling a town filled with hate and finding a decent life for himself may be more than even he can manage.

Stauffer, Sue. Donuthead

Franklin Delano Donuthead is a fifth grader with a lot of problems: For starters, his last name is Donuthead. He finds an unlikely friend and protector in Sarah Kervick, the tough new student who lives in a dirty trailer, bonds with his mother, and is as "irregular" as he is.

Tolan, Stephanie. Surviving the Applewhites.

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the arty and eccentric Applewhite family's Creative Academy, where he

discovers talents and interests he never knew
he had.

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