

Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
A bored ten-year-old boy named Milo travels to "The Lands Beyond" when he drives his miniature car through a mysterious tollbooth. (JF JUS)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch, who has cursed the land with eternal winter. (JF LEW)

Midnight for Charlie Bone
by Jenny Nimmo

Charlie Bone's life with his widowed mother and two grandmothers undergoes a dramatic change when he discovers that he can hear people in photographs talking. (JF NIM)

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

Miniature people who live in an old country house by borrowing things from the humans are forced to emigrate from their home under the clock. (JF NOR)

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppal

When a newborn bat named Shade but sometimes called "Runt" becomes separated from his colony during migration, he grows in ways that prepare him for even greater journeys. (JF OPP)



Rowan of Rin by Emily Rodda

Because only he can read the magical map, young, weak, and timid Rowan joins six other villagers to climb a mountain and try to restore their water supply, as fears of a dragon and other horrors threaten to drive them back. (JF ROD)

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Selden

The adventures of a country cricket who unintentionally arrives in New York and is befriended by Tucker Mouse and Harry Cat. (JF SEL)

Babe the Gallant Pig by Dick-King Smith

A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success. (JF SMI)

Abel's Island by William Steig

Castaway on an uninhabited island, Abel, a very civilized mouse, finds his resourcefulness and endurance tested to the limit as he struggles to survive and return to his home. (JF STE)

The Little Gentlemen by Philippa Pearce

A young girl's dull life is transformed when she meets and befriends an extraordinary talking mole that likes to be read to and tell of his own past exploits throughout the centuries. (JF PEA)



Annotations from Novelist 2007

Challenging Fiction for Younger Readers



Ridgefield Library
472 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Prydain Chronicles by Lloyd Alexander
Valorous and humorous tales of Taran, the Assistant Pig-Keeper, who determines to save the kingdom of Prydain from evil. (JF ALE)

Poppy by Avi
Poppy the deer mouse urges her family to move next to a field of corn big enough to feed them all forever, but Mr. Ocax, a terrifying owl, has other ideas. (JF AVI)

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy by Jeanne Birdsall
While vacationing with their widowed father in the Berkshire Mountains, four sisters, ages four through twelve, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother. (JF BIR)

Spiderwick Chronicles by Holly Black
When the Grace children go to stay at their Great Aunt's Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some unusual experiences. (JF BLA)

Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet by Eleanor Cameron
A mystery man inspires two boys to build a space ship which takes them to the planet of Basidium to help the Mushroom people. (JF CAM)

The BFG by Roald Dahl
Kidsnatched from her orphanage by a BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Sophie concocts with him a plan to save the world from nine other man-gobbling canny-bull giants. (JF DAH)



The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread

by Kate DiCamillo
The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. (JF DIC)

Half Magic by Edward Eager
Faced with a dull summer in the city, Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha suddenly find themselves involved in a series of extraordinary adventures after Jane discovers an ordinary-looking coin that seems to grant wishes. (JF EAG)

Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Edwards
With help from an eccentric professor who gives their imaginations special intensive training, three children succeed in locating the last of the great Whangdoodles and granting his heart's desire. (JF EDW)

The Moffats by Eleanor Estes
Relates the adventures and misadventures of the four Moffat children living with their widowed mother in a yellow house on New Dollar Street in the small town of Cranbury, Connecticut. (JF EST)

The Ear, the Eye and the Arm

by Nancy Farmer
In 2194 in Zimbabwe, General Matsika's three children are kidnapped and put to work in a plastic mine while three mutant detectives use their special powers to search for them. (JF FAR)

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke
After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven, encountering friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way, and struggling to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. (YA FUN)

Time Stops For No Mouse by Michael Hoeye
When Linka Perflinger, a jaunty mouse, brings a watch into his shop to be repaired and then disappears, Hermux Tantamoq is caught up in a world of dangerous search for eternal youth as he tries to find out what happened to her. (JF HOE)

The Secret of Platform 13 by Eva Ibbotson
Odge Gribbie, a young hag, accompanies an old wizard, a gentle fey, and a giant ogre on their mission through a magical tunnel from their island to London to rescue their King and Queen's son who had been stolen as an infant. (JF IBB)

