

**The Tale of Despereaux** by Kate DiCamillo (The Newbery Medal, Fantasy).....15-44  
 When Despereaux was born, his family knew he was no ordinary mouse. He was a mouse who was drawn to the light, to music, to the princess. Princess Pea. How then, does this remarkable mouse end up in a dungeon with the horrible rat, Chiaroscuro? How will his story be woven into three more stories? Will Despereaux live to find light in a world of darkness?

**The Boy on Fairfield Street: Ted Geisel** by Kathleen Krull (Biography of Dr. Seuss).....45-53  
 How did a young boy who loved reading, singing, animals, and drawing funny pictures change from being a goof off to become a successful author named Dr. Seuss? *Or did he change at all?* Were all of his experiences all bright and cheery? You might be surprised to see that going through the "dark" times helped him to share his "light" with others!

**Chasing Vermeer** by Blue Balliett (Mystery, Art History, Puzzles).....54-73  
 Three mysterious letters are received by three different people. Calder and Petra step into this real-life mystery, getting tangled in a deepening web of coincidences, questions, suspicions, and puzzles after an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Grab your pencil and your detective notebook before you get started, or YOU'LL be left in the dark!

**Christopher Mouse** by William Wise (Fantasy Adventure, White Mice ).....74-90  
 The journal of Christopher Mouse has been found. Now, his journal has been made available to YOU! You will learn that the life of such a mouse is not always LIGHT. It is sometimes DARK... cats... cruel owners... medical laboratories... human feet... hunger... and thirst. His journal will take you from his safe, cozy birthplace cage into an uncertain world. It is guaranteed to make you squeak with delight!

**Circle Unbroken** by Margot Theis Raven (African-American History and Art).....91-95  
 The history of sweetgrass baskets is traced from their origins in African tradition to America where the skills have been handed down through generations. Today, they remember their ancestors and share their light with tourists who purchase their beautiful coiled sweetgrass baskets.

**The Conch Bearer** by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (Fantasy Adventure set in India).....96-112  
 Can you recognize *evil*, even when it is disguised as *good*? Anand must. He is called upon to leave his family and embark on a heroic journey. Will he overcome the deadly obstacles in his path? Can his light stand strong against the darkness of evil? Would you join him to return a magic conch to its place? This journey is one you will never forget, filled with spine tingling surprises and scrumptious surprises!

**Coyote School News** by Joan Sandlin (Historical Papers, Arizona School in early 20<sup>th</sup> Century).....113-120  
 How would you like to have been a young Mexican-American attending the Arizona ranch school in the 1930s and 1940s? If you had been, you might have ridden a horse to school! You would have gotten to write for the school newspaper! Come read their newspapers and learn about their fun.

**Empire State Building** by Elizabeth Mann (Nonfiction, History of the Building).....121-126  
 Have you ever seen the Empire State Building? Work on it was started in 1929 when the age of skyscrapers began. Captured with drawings and primary source photographs, this book will let you get in on the ground floor of the construction of the Empire State Building that has been called "the exclamation point" of skyscrapers!

**Follow the Trail: A Young Person's Guide to the Great Outdoors** by Jessica Loy (Nonfiction, Camping) .....127-136  
 Are you ready to go camping? What supplies do you need? What will you eat? Would you know what to do if you saw a bear? These questions and hundreds more are answered in this terrific camping book with super pictures! It will make you anxious for the weekend when you can try out the ideas!

**Gregor the Overlander** by Suzanne Collins (Science Fiction Adventure, underground civilization).....137-155  
 How do eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister find themselves in an underground world filled with giant spiders, rats, cockroaches, and bats? Will war break out between the creepy inhabitants when their fragile alliance is shattered? Will the two kids get crushed in the conflicts? Can Gregor become a hero who solves a huge mystery that will change him forever? Get the bug spray! Bet you won't be able to read this one in a dark room by yourself!



**Hummingbird Nest: A Journal of Poems** by Kristine O'Connell George (Poetry, Hummingbirds)..... 156-162

A tiny hummingbird flits by the patio and decides to build a nest in a ficus tree. A poet watches as she carries nesting material and positions it just right. She lines her tiny nest with soft cotton, ready for her babies. The author tells the story through poems, a story of the mother hummingbird, her nest, her eggs, her chicks, and the new fledgling hummingbirds.

**Ida B...and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster...** by Katherine Hannigan (Modern fiction).....163-182

Ida B sparkled! She was a planner! She had her days planned for fun. The trees and brook were her friends. She had everything under control...until disaster hit and darkness put out her light. What kind of plan could make everything all right again? Would the light ever break through the darkness again? This is the story of a little family sharing much love. It is the beautiful story of love, trials, despair, rebellion, repentance, forgiveness, and light.

**The Klondike Kid, Bk. 1,** by Deborah Hopkinson (Easy Chapter Book, Historical Fiction, Gold Rush).....183-190

The year is 1897. The place, Seattle. Young Davey is alone. He has saved his money so that he can go find his only living relative, Uncle Walt, who has joined the Alaskan Gold Rush. When darkness closes in on him, Davey decides on a dangerous plan. Can a young boy alone make it to Alaska by himself? When you finish this book, you have two sequels waiting for you!

**The Last Treasure** by Janet S. Anderson (Fiction, Family, Treasure Hunt, )..... 191-211

What would you do if a stranger in your family begged you to travel by yourself across the country to help your family that was falling apart? What if you knew there was one last family treasure that held answers to the century-long secret? Would you go? Would you be able to follow the clues? Just open these pages and you can travel along with Ellsworth on this one-of-a-kind treasure hunt!

**Mack Made Movies** by Don Brown (Picture Book, Biography of Mack Sennett, Silent Movies) .....212-215

Your great-grandparents loved the *Keystone Kops*! They roared with laughter when Charlie Chaplin threw the first pie-in-the-face! Who did they have to thank for perfecting the new slapstick comedy in silent movies? Why, the great Mack Sennett, of course! This interesting picture book pays tribute to the life of this creative genius!

**Sea Clocks** by Louise Borden (Picture Book, Biography of John Harrison, Longitude, Invention).....216-219

Before the 1600s, it was as if ships sailed across the ocean in the **dark**. Sailors didn't have a way to know their longitude. They needed a clock that would work accurately on the ocean. In 1714, one man stepped forward to bring ocean navigation into the light. This is the story of the inventor and the invention that took his lifetime to perfect.

**Seadogs: An Epic Ocean Operetta** by Lisa Wheeler (Combined Text, Poetry, Graphic Novel).....220-227

In this comic-book style operetta, Old Seadog and his crew of two set out on one last sail. What lies in wait for them. Pirates? Planks? Storms? Treasure? Use your shower voice to sing your way through this delightful adventure with a memorable cast of singing canines!

**Sélavi, That Is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope** by Youme (Nonfiction, Picture Book, Haitian Street Children) .....228-231

In a beautiful land filled with the darkness of violence and political unrest, orphaned children roam the streets in search of the light of family and security. Here, they tell their story, a story of being taken in and sheltered beneath wings of hope.

**Silk Umbrellas** by Carolyn Marsden (Fiction, Thailand, Family) .....232-240

Noi lives a happy, simple life in a farming village in Thailand. She is learning from her aging grandmother to paint on silk umbrellas. Her life changes suddenly when their farmland is sold to developers, and her father loses his job. When her sister begins to work in the radio factory, Noi fears that she, too, will have to leave the beauty of the jungle to work in the painfully repetitive assembly line. Will the silk umbrellas be part of a plan to bring back brighter days?

**The Tarantula Scientist** by Sy Montgomery (Nonfiction, Science, Spiders, Arachnologist).....241-246

Did you know that a tarantula smells with its feet and has its stomach in its head? That's not all! Come join this arachnologist (spider scientist) to find out more as he tromps the rainforest of French Guiana studying their habitat, diet, love life, and fangs!

**Thunder from the Sea** by Joan Hiatt Harlow (Fiction, Dog Story, Foster Family, Tsunami).....247-262

Thirteen-year-old Tom Campbell has grown up in a mission orphanage in Newfoundland, and has always dreamed of having a real family, a real house, and a real dog of his very own. His life begins to change when he is sent to Back o' the Moon Island to work with a fisherman and his wife. During a storm at sea, he rescues a Newfoundland dog and names it Thunder. Will he be able to keep his new friend? This thrilling adventure about family, loyalty, and the special bond between a lonely boy and a remarkable dog will leave you cheering. (A Kids' Wings Pick)

