

Booklists for Tweens (Ages 10-12)

New Stuff-Fiction

Al Capone Does My Shirts, Choldenko, Jennifer 2004

A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Becoming Naomi Leon, Ryan, Pam Munoz 2004

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

*Available in Young Adult

Bird, Johnson, Angela 2004

Devastated by the loss of a second father, thirteen-year-old Bird follows her stepfather from Cleveland to Alabama in hopes of convincing him to come home, and along the way helps two boys cope with their difficulties.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Chasing Vermeer, Balliet, Blue 2004

When seemingly unrelated and strange events start to happen and a precious Vermeer painting disappears, eleven-year-olds Petra and Calder combine their talents to solve an international art scandal.

*Available by request through the Minuteman catalog

City of Ember, DuPrau, Jeanne 2003

In the year 241, 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.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Crispin: the cross of lead, Avi 2004

Falsely accused of theft and murder, an orphaned peasant boy in fourteenth-century England flees his village and meets a larger-than-life juggler who holds a dangerous secret.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Eagle Strike, Horowitz, Anthony 2004

After a chance encounter with assassin Yassen Gregorovich in the South of France, teenage spy Alex Rider investigates international pop star and philanthropist Damian Cray whose new video game venture hides sinister motives involving Air Force One, nuclear missiles, and the international drug trade.

*Available in Young Adult

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Esperanza Rising, Ryan, Pam Munoz 2001

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.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Goose Girl, Hale, Shannon 2003

On her way to marry a prince she's never met, Princess Anidori is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity and reclaim the crown that is rightfully hers.

*Available by request through Minuteman Catalog

Heartbeat, Creech, Sharon 2004

Twelve-year-old Annie ponders the many rhythms of life the year that her mother becomes pregnant, her grandfather begins faltering, and her best friend (and running partner) becomes distant.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Hoot, Hiassen, Carl 2002

Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

I am David, Holm, Anne 2004 translated from the Danish by L.W. Kingsland.

After escaping from an Eastern European concentration camp where he has spent most of his life, a twelve-year-old boy struggles to cope with an entirely strange world as he flees northward to freedom in Denmark.

*Available in Young Adult

Ida B : --and her plans to maximize fun, avoid disaster, and (possibly) save the world, Hannigan, Katherine 2004

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.

*Available by request through the Minuteman catalog

Indigo's Star, McKay, Hilary 2004

Spurred on by his youngest sister, Rose, twelve-year-old Indigo sticks up for himself and an American boy who has replaced him as the primary target of the school bullies.

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Last Treasure, Anderson, Janet S. 2003

Thirteen-year-old Ellsworth leaves his father to visit the relatives he has never met and eventually joins forces with Jess, his distant cousin, to uncover family secrets and search for their ancestor's hidden treasure.

*Available by request through the Minuteman Catalog

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, Schmidt, Gary D. 2004

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.

*Available by request through the Minuteman catalog

Messenger, Lowry, Lois 2004

In this novel that unites characters from "The Giver" and "Gathering Blue," Matty, a young member of a utopian community that values honesty, conceals an emerging healing power that he cannot explain or understand.

*Available in Young Adult

Never Mind! A Twin Novel, Avi and Rachel Vail 2004

Twelve-year-old New York City twins Meg and Edward have nothing in common, so they are just as shocked as everyone else when Meg's hopes for popularity and Edward's mischievous schemes coincidentally collide in a hilarious showdown.

*Available in Young Adult

North, Napoli, Donna Jo 2004

Tired of his mother's overprotectiveness and intrigued by the life of African American explorer Matthew Henson, twelve-year-old Alvin travels north and spends a season with a trapper near the Arctic Circle.

*Available by request through the Minuteman Catalog

Olive's Ocean, Henkes, Kevin 2003

On a summer visit to her grandmother's cottage by the ocean, twelve-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, on her relationship with her grandmother, on her feelings for an older boy, and on her plans to be a writer.

*Available in Young Adult

Once Upon a Marigold, Ferris, Jean 2001

A young man with a mysterious past and a penchant for inventing things leaves the troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

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The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place, Konigsburg, E.L. 2004

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

The Pepins and Their Problems, Horvath, Polly 2004

The reader is invited to help solve the Pepin family's unusual problems, which include having a cow who creates lemonade rather than milk and having to cope with a competitive neighbor.

*Available in Childrens

The People of Sparks, DuPrau, Jeanne 2004 (sequel to *The City of Ember*)

Having escaped to the Unknown Regions, Lina and the others seek help from the village people of Sparks.

*Available in New Books

Red Kayak, Cummings, Priscilla 2004

Living near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.

*Available in Young Adult

Series of Unfortunate Events, Snicket, Lemony

Books 1-11 tracks the unfortunate events for the three siblings, Violet, Klaus, and baby sister Sunny as they constantly escape the clutches of their cruel uncle, Count Olaf, who wants their huge inheritance from the unfortunate fire that killed their parents.

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

So B. It: A Novel, Weeks, Sarah 2004

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.

*Available by request through the Minuteman catalog

Story Time, Bloor, Edward 2004

George and Kate are promised the best education but instead face obsessed administrators, endless tests, and evil spirits when they are transferred to Whittaker Magnet School.

*Available in Young Adult

Surviving the Applewhites, Tolan, Stephanie 2004

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.

*Available in Young Adult

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Thief Lord, Funke, Cornelia 2003

Two brothers, having run away from the aunt who plans to adopt the younger one, are sought by a detective hired by their aunt, but they have found shelter with--and protection from--Venice's "Thief Lord."

*Available in Young Adult and Childrens

Travel Team, Lupica, Mike 2004

After he is cut from his travel basketball team--the very same team that his father once led to national prominence--twelve-year-old Danny Walker forms his own team of cast-offs that might have a shot at victory.

*Available in Young Adult

Tree Girl, Mikaelson, Ben 2004

When, protected by the branches of one of the trees she loves to climb, Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village and the murder of nearly all its inhabitants, she vows never to climb again until, after she and her traumatised sister find safety in a Mexican refugee camp, she realizes that only by climbing and facing their fears can she and her sister hope to have a future.

*Available by request through the Minuteman catalog.

Under the Sun, Dorros, Arthur 2004

Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.

*Available in Young Adult

The Young Man and the Sea, Philbrick, Rodman 2004

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 hugh bluefin tuna.

*Available in Childrens