Books for Student Readers Spring 2008

The titles are divided by female reader, male reader, and suitable for either. Otherwise, they are in no particular order.

FEMALE

Looking for Lucy Buick, by Rita Murphy. 2005. 165 pages. A fire at her uncles’ business is the opportunity that allows Lucy to escape from her strange adoptive family. She travels to Iowa to seek her “real” family and the answer to why she was abandoned as a baby in the backseat of a Buick convertible. Ages 11 – 14.


Kat Got Your Tongue, by Lee Weatherly. 2006. 200 pages. After a terrible car accident, Kat wakes up with no idea who she is, and no memory of anything before the crash. She doesn't even recognize her mum, much less her friends from school. Only after she finds her old diary—written in a voice no longer her own—does Kat begin to discover the terrible secrets of her previous life. This incredible novel explores the damage amnesia can do to a family, and how one girl struggles to reconcile her new personality with her old. Ages 12 and up.


The Friendship Pact, by Susan Beth Pfeffer. 111 pages. Tracy and Andrea’s favorite TV star is coming to town, and they are dying to meet him. Tracy is invited to a party for him at the mayor’s house, but Andrea is not on the guest list. How can Tracy choose between her best friend and her favorite star? Ages 9 – 12.


Murphy’s Island, by Colleen O'Shaughnessy McKenna. 1990. 202 pages. Trials and tribulations of sixth grade. Collette’s family moves to a tiny island, far from everything. She no longer has to wear school uniforms and there’s a really cute boy in her class, but why are the girls so mean to her? Ages 10 – 13.
Babysitters Club Original Series: Jessi’s Secret Language, Claudia and the Bad Joke, Kristy and the Mother’s Day Surprise, Jessi’s Baby-Sitter, Jessi’s Wish. All about 140 pages.

Babysitters Club Mysteries: Mary Anne and the Library Mystery, Jessi and the Jewel Thieves, Kristy and the Vampires, Mary Anne and the Zoo Mystery. First three are about 140 pages; Zoo Mystery is 163 pages.


The Judge is Seeing Double, by Nancy Wright Grossman. 1988. 63 pages (smaller print). Meg and Morgan, identical twins, are alike in every way. Or are they? Now that they share a golden palomino horse named Double Trouble, they are beginning to compete with each other. Will Trouble drive them apart? Dutch Mill Stables series. Age 9 – 12.

MALE


Phineas L. MacGuire…Gets Slimed!, by Frances O’Roark Dowell. 2007. 200 pages. When his new best friend, Ben, decides to run for class president, fourth-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire reluctantly agrees to be his campaign manager in exchange for help with his latest experiment – cultivating exhibits for a mold museum. Includes slimy experiments you can do at home! Ages 8 – 12.

Defect, by Will Weaver. 2007. 204 pages. After spending most of his life in Minnesota foster homes hiding a bizarre physical abnormality, fifteen-year-old David is offered a
chance at normalcy, but must decide if giving up what makes him special is the right thing to do. Ages 12 and up.

Surrender, by Sonya Hartnett. 2005. 250 pages. As he is dying, a twenty-year-old man known as Gabriel recounts his troubled childhood and his strange relationship with a dangerous counterpart named Finnegan. A series of arson attacks in town appear to be connected to Finnegan, and Gabriel begins to realize how unpredictable and wild he is. Dark and delicate, Surrender is a brilliantly told psychological thriller. Ages 14 and up.

User Unfriendly, by Vivian Vande Velde. 1991. 244 pages. Virtual reality, genuine death... It’s the most advanced computer role-playing game ever: When you play, you’re really there – in a dark dream teeming with evil creatures, danger-filled fortresses, and malevolent sorceries. The game plugs directly into your brain – no keyboard, no modem, no monitor. And for hacker Arvin Rizalli and his friends, no cash up front, no questions asked... and no hope of rescue when the game goes horribly, deathly wrong. Age 12 and up.

Who Is Bugs Potter?, by Gordon Korman. 1980. 180 pages. One time, at band camp... actually band festival... Adam’s roommate turned out to be an unusual guy known as Bugs. Seen in multiple disguises, trying to break into a glamorous movie star’s suite or racing out of a crowded rock club, or occasionally playing drums for the high school band, is he just crazy or could he really be a star? Age 11 - 14.

The Zucchini Warriors (1988, 200 pages), by Gordon Korman. Bruno and Boots series. Wacky, hysterical goings-on at a boys’ boarding school. How could two such decent kids get into so much trouble? Zucchini Warriors is about the attempt to have a winning football team and the secret ringer the boys bring in. Age 10 – 13.

Bimby, by Peter Burchard. 1968. 92 pages. Story of a day of decision in the life of a young slave in the Sea Islands of Georgia just before the Civil War. A growing boy is thrust toward manhood by an unforeseen event. Set against a background of light and darkness, the story tells of simple pleasures, nagging fears, terror, and its aftermath. Deeply moving portrayal of a dark side of American history. Age 11 – 14.

EITHER

Cool Cooking series: Five titles in a fun and creative series that introduces young readers to cooking. Kid-tested cool recipes, basic cooking techniques, tools, and ingredients, plus recipe variations that will inspire young cooks to experiment with their own ideas. Cool Sweets & Treats to Eat; Cool Cuisine for Super Sleepovers; Cool


The Wacky Witch War, by Ellen Jackson. 1996. 32 pages. When her papa finally relents and lets her go to school with the other children, Wendy the witch is the happiest little girl in town. But soon Papa gets into a spell-casting war with Wendy's teacher, Miss Crispus. One day Miss Crispus is turned into a pencil sharpener, and later Papa is turned into a bologna sandwich. Can Wendy's magic spell-cruncher save the day? Age 4 – 8.


Courting Disaster, by Carolyn Keene. 1993. 220 pages. A Nancy Drew/Hardy Boys Super Mystery. A love match turns into a deadly game. Top veejay Terry Alford is about to open in a Broadway-bound musical, but a masked intruder puts her life in jeopardy. Tennis superstar/superbrat Pat Flynn is being stalked by an unknown assailant. Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys soon discover that the incidents are linked: Terry and Pat are one of the hottest celebrity items around. Age 10-13.