The View From Saturday
J F Konigsburg, E.L.
Four students develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher who chooses them to represent their 6th-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. Grades 4-6

Judy Moody Was In A Mood*
J F McDonald, Megan
3rd grader Judy is in a bad mood until she gets an assignment to create a collage all about herself and begins creating her masterpiece. Grades 2-4

Natalie's Secret
J F Morgan, Melissa J.
When her mother makes her leave to attend a summer camp, Natalie tries to overcome her aversion to nature and makes new friends while, at the same time, keeping the identity of her famous father a secret. Grades 4-6

Amelia Writes Again *
J F Moss, Marissa
A ten-year-old draws and writes about her daily life in the journal she receives for her birthday. Grades 5-7

Ways to Live Forever
J F Nicholls, Sally
Sam McQueen writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him. Grades 3-7

Bridge to Terabithia
J F Paterson, Katherine
The life of a ten-year-old boy expands when his new friend dies trying to reach their hideaway during a storm. Grades 3-7

Clementine*
J F Pennypacker, Sara
While sorting through difficulties in her friendship with her neighbor, 8-year-old Clementine gains several unique hairstyles and also helps her father in his efforts to banish pigeons from the front of their apartment building. Grades 2-4

Dork Diaries: Tales From a Not So Fabulous Life
J F Russell, Rachel Renee
14-year-old Nikki writes in her diary of her struggle to be popular at her exclusive new private school, then of finding her place after she gives up on being part of the elite group. Grades 5-8

Crash
SUMMER YA Spinelli, Jerry
7th-grader John "Crash" Coogan has always been comfortable with his tough, aggressive behavior, until his relationship with an unusual Quaker boy and his grandfather's stroke make him consider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family. Grades 5-8

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree*
J F Tarshis, Lauren
A quirky and utterly logical 7th-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers. Grades 5-7

Secret Identity*
J F Van Draanen, Wendelin
Nolan Byrd, tired of being called names by the class bully, has a secret identity—Shredderman! Grades 2-5


Realistic Fiction

Realistic books have plots, characters, and settings that might be found in real life. The characters in the books on this list are dealing with life's ups and downs.

*Starred titles are the first title in a series

Many of these titles may be available in Large Print, Audio Book, and other formats.
The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*  
JF Anglebreger, Tom  
6th-grader Tommy and his friends describe their interactions with a paper finger puppet of Yoda, worn by their weird classmate Dwight, as they try to figure out whether or not the puppet can really predict the future.  
Grades 3-6

Ivy + Bean*  
JF Barrows, Annie  
When 7-year-old Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected.  
Grades 1-4

Anything But Typical  
JF Baskin, Nora Raleigh  
The depiction of an autistic boy's daily life and lifelong struggles to exist in a neuro typical world, told from the boy's perspective.  
Grades 4-7

The Penderwicks : A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*  
JF Birdsall, Jeanne  
While vacationing with their widowed father, four lovable sisters, share adventures with a local boy, much to the dismay of his snobbish mother.  
Grades 3-6

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*  
JF Blume, Judy  
Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem.  
Grades 3-5

Beezus and Ramona*  
JF Cleary, Beverly  
Beezus worries because sometimes she doesn't like her little sister Ramona, until their mother and Aunt Beatrice tell her what they were like while growing up.  
Grades 3-5

Frindle  
JF Clements, Andrew  
When he decides to turn his 5th grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.  
Grades 2-6

Ruby Holler  
JF Creech, Sharon  
13-year-old twins Dallas & Florida have grown up in a terrible orphanage but their lives change forever when an older couple invites them each on an adventure, beginning in an almost magical place called Ruby Holler.  
Grades 4-6

Because of Winn-Dixie  
JF DiCamillo, Kate  
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie.  
Grades 4-6

Phineas L. MacGuire . . . Erupts! The First Experiment*  
JF Dowell, Frances O'Roark  
4th-grade science whiz Phineas MacGuire is forced to team up with the new boy in class on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality causes Phineas to wonder if they have any chance of winning.  
Grades 2-4

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*  
JF Gantos, Jack  
Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.  
Grades 4-8

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little*  
JF Gifford, Peggy Elizabeth  
With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-4th-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book.  
Grades 2-4

Ida B : --and Her Plans to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World  
JF Hannigan, Katherine  
4th-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.  
Grades 4-6

Hoot  
JF Hiaasen, Carl  
Roy becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.  
Grades 5-9

My One Hundred Adventures  
JF Horvath, Polly  
12-year-old Jane has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.  
Grades 4-7