

Grade 7

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

(Also titled The Mighty.) Maxwell Kane has always kept to himself since the kids laugh at his mental disabilities and his enormous physical size. It seemed fitting that when Kevin, a boy with birth defects causing his body not to grow, moves in that they would become best friends and share what each had --- Max his size and Kevin his brains -- to become the awesome "Freak the Mighty" duo.

Hero by Susan L. Rottman

After finding himself in trouble with the law, Sean is sent to perform community service at a local ranch under the supervision of old-timer Dave Hassler who is known for his gruffness. When told to muck the stalls, curry the horses, mend the fences, Sean intends to rebel but finds himself being pulled closer and closer to the land, the hard work, and to mean, old Mr. Hassler.

Homecoming by Cynthia Voigt

When Dicey's mother abandons Dicey and her three younger siblings in a mall parking lot, Dicey is determined to keep the four of them together and to somehow, somewhere find an adult who will love them all. This is the first book in Voigt's series about Dicey and her family and friends.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

Roy Eberhardt is the new kid--again. This time around it's Trace Middle School in humid Coconut Grove, Florida. But it's still the same old routine: table by himself at lunch, no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana Matherson pushing him around. But if it wasn't for Dana Matherson mashing his face against the school bus window that one day, he might never have seen the tow-headed running boy. And if he had never seen the running boy, he might never have met tall, tough, bully-beating Beatrice. And if he had never met Beatrice, he might never have discovered the burrowing owls living in the lot on the corner of East Oriole Avenue. And if he had never discovered the owls, he probably would have missed out on the adventure of a lifetime. Apparently, bullies do serve a greater purpose in the scope of the universe. Because if it wasn't for Dana Matherson...

Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer

Hope is an ace waitress who lives with her chef aunt. They leave New York City to work at a diner in rural Wisconsin. Hope gets embroiled in local politics when G.T. Swope, the honest owner of the diner, challenges the town's corrupt but powerful mayor. The catch is: G.T. has leukemia and it's unclear how long he'll live.

Janitor's Boy by Andrew Clements

Fifth-grader Jack Rankin's father is the janitor of the junior-high school. That wouldn't be so bad if nobody knew about it. But on October 5, disaster strikes when Lenny Trumbull throws up his cafeteria ravioli.

Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson

Seventh grader Lafayette has renamed his middle brother Newcharlie because he's come home tough and angry from serving three years in juvie. After the death of their mother and father, his oldest brother, Ty'ree, gave up going to MIT to keep the family together. On this day when Charlie messes up again, it's clear these three need each other more than ever.

Phoenix Rising by Karen Hesse

Nyle and her grandmother continue to tend their sheep in New England close to the site of a recent nuclear power plant accident. When a neighbor boy suffers acute radiation sickness, he and his mother move in with Nyle. Nyle tends to him as she examines her own life and its rocky relationships.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Paul Fisher, legally blind, has trouble adjusting to his family's move to Tangerine, Florida until he bonds with other soccer players at his school. Through their friendship and his own growing self-esteem he is finally able to confront his parents and disturbed brother about the "accident" many years earlier which led to his impaired sight.

The Cat Ate my Gymsuit by Paula Danziger

Marcy Lewis thinks that almost nothing is right in her life --- not her classes, not her family, not her weight. Then she becomes friends with her English teacher, Ms. Finney, and she begins to see that life is not always how it seems.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

For over twenty-five years, Ellen Raskin's Newbery Medal-winning *The Westing Game* has been an enduring favorite. It has sold over one and a half million copies. This highly inventive mystery involves sixteen people who are invited to the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. They could become millionaires-it all depends on how they play the tricky and dangerous Westing game, a game involving blizzards, burglaries, and bombings! Ellen Raskin has created a remarkable cast of characters in a puzzle-knotted, word-twisting plot filled with humor, intrigue, and suspense.

The White Fox Chronicles by Gary Paulsen

Fourteen-year-old Cody Pierce, a.k.a. the White Fox, is on a mission. After 18 months in the evil CCR (Confederation of Consolidated Republics) prison camp, Cody makes an ingenious escape and embarks on a plan to carry out his revenge and liberate the children remaining in the camp. The year is 2057, and the USA has been overcome by the brutal tactics of the CCR. But pockets of Americans are building up their strength (and arsenals of weapons), waiting for their chance to fight back. With the White Fox's brilliant, ethical (except when it comes to settling certain scores with CCR's particularly heinous leaders), military mind, the downtrodden Americans may just have a chance.

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Billy Colman's best friends are his coon dogs and they spend many days out in the woods training for the coveted top prize in the annual coon hunt. However, tragedy soon strikes and Billy must face days and nights without his dogs but with a deeper understanding of life.

White Water by P. J. Peterson

Greg reluctantly joins his father and brother James on a white-water rafting expedition that turns into a nightmare after his father is bitten by a rattlesnake.

Witch Child by Celia Rees

Enter the world of Mary Newbury, where being different can cost a person her life. Hidden until now in the pages of her secret diary, fourteen-year-old Mary's story begins as she flees the English witch-hunters to settle in an American colony. How long can she hide her true nature from the Puritans? How long can she keep running?