

Fifth Grade Entering Sixth Grade

A.K.A. Genius by Marilee Haynes "When standardized test scores identify seventh-grader Gabe Carpenter as St. Jude's resident genius, he wonders what it means to have brains when he can't even manage to open his own locker." ©2013 **Grade Level 5-7**

Almost Home by Joan Bauer Sixth-grader Sugar and her mother lose their beloved house and experience the harsh world of homelessness. ©2012 **Grade Level 5-8**

The Best Man by Richard Peck Archer Magill has spent a lively five years of grade school with one eye out in search of grown-up role models. Three of the best are his grandpa, the great architect; his dad, the great vintage car customizer. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-6**

The Dreamer by Pam Munoz Ryan A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who grew up a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world. Includes author's note about the poet. **Pura Belpré Award Winner** ©2012 **Grade Level 5-9**

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Regan Barnhill Every year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. **2017 Newbery Medal Book** ©2016 **Grade Level 6-8**

A Handful of Stars by Cynthia Lord When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide-open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Salma Santiago who manages to catch him. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-7**

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eagar While her friends are spending their summers having pool parties and sleepovers, twelve-year-old Carolina — Carol — is spending hers in the middle of the New Mexico desert, helping her parents move the grandfather she's never met into a home for people with dementia. ©2016 **Grade Level 5-8**

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives by Caitlin Alifirenka It started as an assignment. Everyone in Caitlin's class wrote to an unknown student somewhere in a distant place. ©2015 **Grade Level 6-Up**

Isabel Feeney, Star Reporter by Beth Fantaskey It's 1920s Chicago—the guns-and-gangster era of Al Capone—and it's unusual for a girl to be selling the *Tribune* on the street corner. But ten-year-old Isabel Feeney is unusually obsessed with being a news reporter. ©2017 **Grade Level 5-7**

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina Merci Suarez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, Merci has never been like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. **2019 Newbery Medal** ©2018 **Grade Level 5-7**

The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts by Avi Oliver is left on his own after a terrible storm hits his English community in 1724. High adventure and near disasters meet Oliver as he tries to make his way to London to find his sister, Charity. Once in London and reunited with Charity, life does not calm down. Avi leaves readers hanging—will they survive? ©2017 **Grade Level 6-8**

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown Though Roz, a robot, is initially viewed with suspicion when she finds herself on an isolated island, she soon becomes part of the natural order, parenting an orphaned gosling and providing shelter for the animals. But is there really a place for her within this ecosystem? ©2016 **Grade Level 5-7**