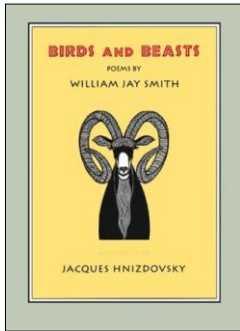


***In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More***  
**American Literature**  
**Book Recommendations**

This list of book recommendations was created by specialists in literature for young people to supplement *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*, a professional development day presented by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, in conjunction with the Perry Ohio School District. We invite you to print and share this list as needed. Books are listed by age range. This document is formatted so you can print it double sided on 3-hole punch paper and store in a binder. Lists of book recommendations for many other categories are available at: [thencbla.org](http://thencbla.org)



**Birds and Beasts**

Written by William Jay Smith, illustrated by Jacques Hnizdovsky.

Published by David R. Godine.

For ages 4 and up.

Poetry: Poet William Jay Smith here joins with artist Jacques Hnizdovsky to create a sprightly and elegant collection of poems to read aloud. In the Godine tradition of publishing books for children that both challenge and delight, this is one edition that just may be more prized by parents, for we

have decided to do the collaboration justice by printing it letterpress (with the woodcuts in a very subtle third color). But even if you are not enamored of the dents of metal in paper, you will certainly be seduced by Smith's marvelous sprung rhythms and catchy cadences, with each poem accompanied by the strong and vibrant woodcuts created by the gentle genius of Jacques Hnizdovsky.

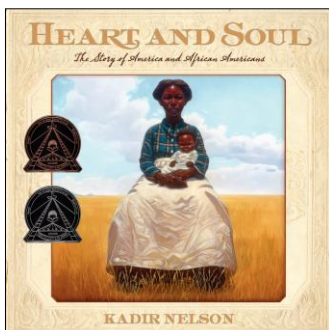
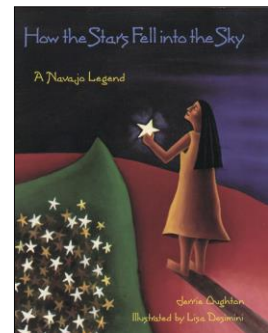
**How the Stars Fell into the Sky: A Navajo Legend**

Written by Jerrie Oughton, illustrated by Lisa Desimini.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 5-8.

Folktale: This retelling of a Navajo folktale explains how First Woman tried to write the laws of the land using stars in the sky, only to be thwarted by the trickster Coyote.



**Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans**

Written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson.

Published by Balzer + Bray.

For ages 6-10.

Fiction: From Caldecott Honor winner Kadir Nelson comes the compelling and inspiring story of our country through the lens of the African-American experience.

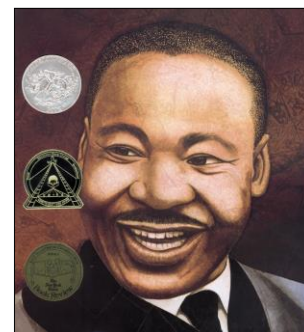
### **Martin's Big Words**

Written by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Bryan Collier.

Published by Disney-Jump at the Sun, an imprint of Disney Book Group.

For ages 6-10.

Biography: This picture book biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. brings his life and the profound nature of his message to young children through his own words. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. Doreen Rappaport uses quotes from some of his most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way. Bryan Collier's stunning collage art combines remarkable watercolor paintings with vibrant patterns and textures. A timeline and a list of additional books and websites help make this a standout biography of Dr. King.



### **Agent Q, or the Smell of Danger!**

Written by M.T. Anderson, illustrated by Kurt Cyrus.

Published by Beach Lane Books.

For ages 8-12.

Fiction: It's time for Lily, Katie, and Jasper to head home from their exciting Delaware adventure, but the Awful Autarch's spies and goons are everywhere, and it's clear that \*they\* have other plans for our three intrepid heroes. Chock full of ups, downs, twists, turns, and even a band of sentient lobsters fighting on the side of Good, this fourth installment of the Pals in Peril series is every bit as wild, wacky, and wonderfully outrageous as the first three.

### **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library**

Written by Chris Grabenstein.

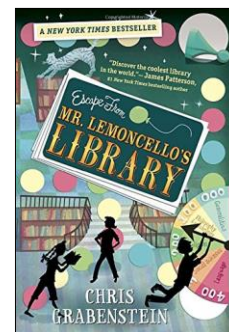
Published by Random House Books for Young Readers.

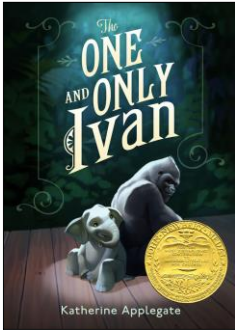
For ages 8-12.

Fiction: Kyle Keeley is the class clown, popular with most kids, (if not the teachers), and an ardent fan of all games: board games, word games, and particularly video games. His hero, Luigi Lemoncello, the most notorious and creative gamemaker in the world, just so happens to be the genius behind the building of the new town library.

Lucky Kyle wins a coveted spot to be one of the first 12 kids in the library for an overnight of fun, food, and lots and lots of games. But when morning comes, the doors remain locked. Kyle and the other winners must solve every clue and every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route. And the stakes are very high.

In this cross between *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *A Night in the Museum*, Agatha Award winner Chris Grabenstein uses rib-tickling humor to create the perfect tale for his quirky characters. Old fans and new readers will become enthralled with the crafty twists and turns of this ultimate library experience.





**The One and Only Ivan**

Written by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao.

Published by HarperCollins Children's Books.

For ages 9-11.

Fiction: This Newbery award winner is an unforgettable and uplifting tween animal fantasy that explores the power of friendship, art, and hope through the story of Ivan, a gorilla who lives at a mall.

**Wonder**

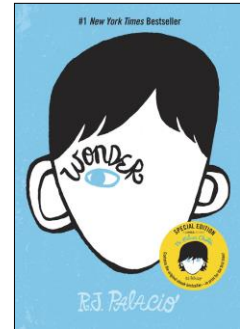
Written by R. J. Palacio.

Published by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

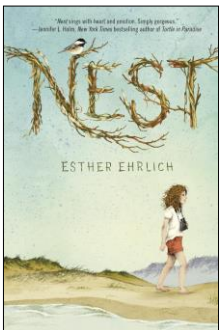
For ages 10 and up.

Fiction: I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *Wonder* begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.



In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel “a meditation on kindness.” Indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out.



**Nest**

Written by Esther Ehrlich.

Published by Wendy Lamb Books.

For ages 10-12.

Fiction: A heartfelt and unforgettable middle-grade novel about an irresistible girl and her family, tragic change, and the healing power of love and friendship. In 1972 home is a cozy nest on Cape Cod for eleven-year-old Naomi “Chirp” Orenstein, her older sister, Rachel; her psychiatrist father; and her dancer mother. But then Chirp’s mom develops symptoms of a serious disease, and everything changes.

Chirp finds comfort in watching her beloved wild birds. She also finds a true friend in Joey, the mysterious boy who lives across the street. Together they create their own private world and come up with the perfect plan: Escape. Adventure. Discovery.

*Nest* is Esther Ehrlich’s stunning debut novel. Her lyrical writing is honest, humorous, and deeply affecting. Chirp and Joey will steal your heart. Long after you finish *Nest*, the spirit of Chirp and her loving family will stay with you.

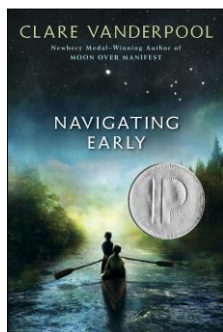
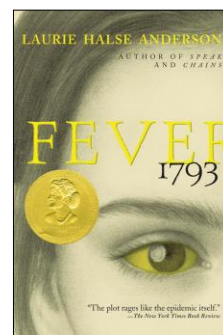
### **Fever 1793**

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson, illustrated by Lori Earley.

Published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

For ages 10-14.

Fiction: During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.



### **Navigating Early**

Written by Clare Vanderpool.

Published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers.

For ages 10-14.

Fiction: From the author of Newbery Medal winner *Moon Over Manifest* comes the odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail.

When Jack Baker's father sends him from his home in Kansas to attend a boys' boarding school in Maine, Jack doesn't know what to expect. Certainly not Early Auden, the strangest of boys. Early keeps to himself, reads the number pi as a story, and refuses to accept truths others take for granted. Jack, feeling lonely and out of place, connects with Early, and the two become friends.

During a break from school, the boys set out for the Appalachian Trail on a quest for a great black bear. As Jack and Early travel deeper into the mountains, they meet peculiar and dangerous characters, and they make some shocking discoveries. But their adventure is only just beginning. Will Jack's and Early's friendship last the journey? Can the boys make it home alive?

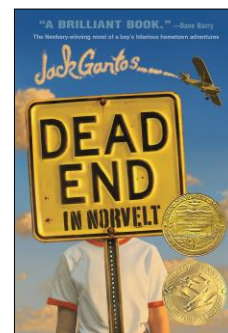
### **Dead End in Norvelt**

Written by Jack Gantos.

Published in paperback by Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, and in hardcover by Farrar Straus Giroux, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 11-13.

Fiction: Endlessly surprising, this sly, sharp-edged narrative is the author at his very best, making readers laugh out loud at the most unexpected things in a dead-funny depiction of growing up in a slightly off-kilter place where the past is present, the present is confusing, and the future is completely up in the air.





**A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl**

Written by Tanya Lee Stone.

Published by Wendy Lamb Books.

For ages 12 and up.

Fiction: Josie, Nicolette, and Aviva all get mixed up with a senior boy—a cool, slick, sexy boy who can talk them into doing almost anything he wants. In a blur of high school hormones and personal doubt, each girl struggles with how much to give up and what ultimately to keep for herself. How do girls handle themselves? How much can a boy get away with? And in the end, who comes out on top? A bad boy may always be a bad boy. But this bad boy is about to meet three girls who won't back down.

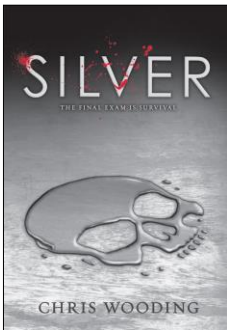
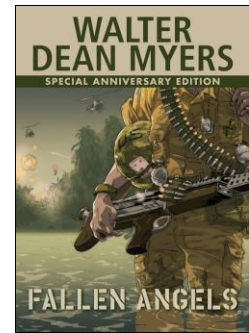
**Fallen Angels**

Written by Walter Dean Myers.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 12 and up.

Fiction: A coming-of-age tale for young adults set in the trenches of the Vietnam War in the late 1960s, this is the story of Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the service when his dream of attending college falls through.



**Silver**

Written by Chris Wooding.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 12 and up.

Fiction: Fast-paced and frightening, *Silver* is a tale set on the fringes of science and horror—a story about the struggle to survive in the face of impossible odds.

**Going Bovine**

Written by Libba Bray.

Published by Delacorte Books for Young Readers.

For ages 14 and up.

Fiction: From the author of the national bestselling and critically acclaimed Gemma Doyle trilogy comes the darkly comedic journey of Cameron Smith, a disaffected sixteen year-old who, after being diagnosed with Creutzfeldt Jakob's disease, sets off on a road trip with a dwarf he meets in the hospital in an attempt to find a cure.

