

Staff Picks: Favorite Middle Grade (4+) Novels

- Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle.....JFIC Federle
Nate's biggest dream is to star in a Broadway show, and this novel follows his trip to New York City to audition for a role in *E.T.: The Musical*. This book is laugh-out-loud funny with a dash of suspense.
- The Chronicles of Narnia* series by C.S. Lewis.....JFIC Lewis
These fantasy classics tell the story of four kids who stumble upon the magical land of Narnia and the adventures they encounter. Featuring lions, evil witches, and more fascinating characters, this series is full of action.
- The Fourteenth Goldfish* by Jennifer L. Holm.....JFIC Holm
Ellie's grandfather is a scientist and figures out a way to reverse aging. Having turned himself into a teenager, he moves in with Ellie and her family. How will this complicate her already-dramatic middle school life?
- The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman.....JFIC Gaiman
Bod, short for Nobody, is raised in a graveyard after escaping a tragedy that killed his entire family. The graveyard's residents protect the boy as he grows up, but can he outrun the man that comes back for him?
- Holes* by Louis Sachar.....JFIC Sachar
Stanley's family always has bad luck, and now he's been sent to a juvenile detention center for boys. As punishment, the boys must dig holes every day, but legend has it there's something special hidden in the soil.
- The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick.....JFIC Selznick
Hugo is an orphan with a love for clocks who lives in a Paris train station. His life intersects with an elderly toy seller and his family, and a mystery unfolds. Told through words and beautiful drawings, this story is unique.
- My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George.....JFIC George
Sam is unhappy with his life in New York City and runs away to live in the Catskill Mountains, where he lives in a tree and must learn to live peacefully with the wildlife. This is a great story of survival.
- Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry.....JFIC Lowry
During World War II, ten year-old Annemarie is forced to become brave as she hides her Jewish friends from the Nazis. Dramatic, engaging, and moving; even non-history lovers will enjoy this.
- Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.....JFIC Naylor
11 year-old Marty finds a stray beagle who appears to be abused. Even though the dog is not his, Marty can't stand returning him to his mean owner. Instead, he cares for the dog in secret.
- Theodore Boone* series by John Grisham..... JFIC Grisham
Title character Boone is the only son of two attorneys and knows more about the law than any other eighth grader. Can he help solve a high-profile murder trial before it's too late? A well-written and exciting series.
- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi.....JFIC Avi
Thirteen year-old Charlotte is the only female passenger on a ship heading across the Atlantic Ocean. When something seems strange about the ship's captain, she joins in a revolt that shakes up her entire life.
- When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead.....JFIC Stead
While Miranda's mom is busy preparing for her appearance on a game show, the 12 year-old keeps finding mysterious notes that seem downright otherworldly. This great sci-fi novel has parallels to *A Wrinkle in Time*.
- The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speare.....JFIC Speare
When Kit befriends a girl accused of witchcraft, she must choose between being a loyal friend and doing what everyone around her expects. A great piece of historical fiction!
- Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.....JFIC Palacio
Augie's disability makes him different from everyone else. When he starts attending regular school for the first time, his classmates don't know what to make of him. Can he find real friendship?