

Funke, C. J/Y

**Inkheart**

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, who repairs and binds books for a living, can “read” fictional characters to life. She becomes involved when one of those characters tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

Houston, J. Y940.5472

**Farewell To Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese American Experience During and After the World War II Internment**

The true story of one spirited Japanese American family’s attempt to survive the indignities of forced detention, and of a native-born American child who discovered what it was like to grow up behind barbed wire in the U.S.

Jurmain, S. Y370.92

**The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students**

When Prudence Crandall decided to admit African-American girls to her exclusive Connecticut girls’ school in 1833, she faced many challenges including racial discrimination, riots, arson and a jail sentence.

Le Guin, U. J/Y

**A Wizard of Earthsea**

A boy grows to manhood while attempting to subdue the evil he unleashed on the world as an apprentice to the Master Wizard.

L’Engle, M. J/Y

**The Arm of the Starfish**

A marine biology student reporting to his summer job on an island off Portugal finds himself at the center of a power struggle between his boss and another group of Americans.

Magorian, M. J/Y

**Good Night Mr. Tom**

A battered child learns to embrace life when he is adopted by an old man in the English countryside during the Second World War.

Paton, A. Y

**Cry, the Beloved Country**

The moving story of Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom is set against the backdrop of South Africa, a land and people torn by racial inequality and injustice.

Richter, C. Y

**The Light in the Forest**

True Son had been born into a frontier family, but all he could remember, all that he loved, was Native American. Now, at fifteen, he was ordered to go back to the white man, whom he had learned to hate.

Schmidt, G. Y

**Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy**

In 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, until he meets Lizzie, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves. The problem is that Turner’s dad and others want to change the island into a tourist attraction.

Stroud, J. J/Y

**The Amulet of Samarkand**

Nathaniel, a magician’s apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. Book 1 in the Bartimaeus Trilogy.

Whelan, G. J/Y

**Homeless Bird**

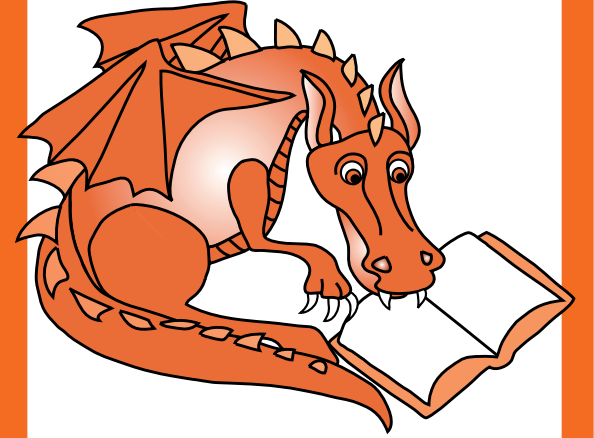
When thirteen-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India’s tradition or find the courage to oppose it.



For more great reads please visit [www.kcls.org/kids](http://www.kcls.org/kids)

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# Challenging Reads for Grades 3-6



Turn to us. The choices will surprise you.

## Books for Grades 3-4

Avi J/Y

**The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle**

As the lone “young lady” on a transatlantic voyage in 1832, Charlotte learns that the captain is murderous and the crew rebellious. Blackwood, G. J

**The Shakespeare Stealer**

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare’s acting troupe in order to steal the script of *Hamlet*. Instead, he discovers the meaning of friendship and loyalty. Cooper, S. J

**Over Sea, Under Stone**

Three children on vacation in Cornwall, England, find an ancient manuscript which sends them on a dangerous quest that entraps them in the eternal battle between the forces of the Light and the Dark. Fleischman, S. JB Houdini

**Escape!: The Story of the Great Houdini!**

In this passionate biography, the Newbery Medal-winning author of *The Whipping Boy* turns his eye to the greatest magician of them all: Harry Houdini! Fleming, C. JB Franklin

**Ben Franklin’s Almanac: Being the True Account of the Good Gentleman’s Life**

This scrapbook-like look at the life of Benjamin Franklin uses many primary source art works, artifacts, anecdotes and quotations. Hiassen, C. J/Y

**Hoot**

When Roy spots a boy running away from the school bus, carrying no books and wearing no shoes, he senses a mystery that sets him on the boy’s trail and on to adventure. Kehret, P. J362.196835

**Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**

The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

Mckinley, R. J/Y

**The Hero and the Crown**

Aerin, with the guidance of the wizard Lurte and the help of the Blue Sword, wins the birthright due her as the daughter of the Damarian king and a witchwoman of the mysterious, demon-haunted North. Mazer, H. J/Y

**A Boy at War**

While fishing with his friends off Honolulu, teenaged Adam is caught in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Through the chaos of the subsequent days he tries to find his father, a naval officer who was serving on the U.S.S. Arizona when the bombs fell. Paterson, K. J/Y

**Lyddie**

Impoverished Vermont farm girl, Lyddie Worthen, is determined to gain her independence by becoming a factory worker in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the 1840s. Ryan, P. J/Y

**Esperanza Rising**

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression. Sperry, A. J

**Call it Courage**

Based on a Polynesian legend, this is the story of a youth who overcomes his fear of the sea and proves his courage to himself and his tribe. Stewart, T. J

**The Mysterious Benedict Society**

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules.

Turner, M. J/Y

**The Thief**

Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone. Vande Velde, V. J/Y

**Heir Apparent**

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, fourteen-year-old Giannine learns that demonstrators have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or be damaged herself.

**Books for Grades 5-6**

Avi J/Y

**Nothing But the Truth: A Documentary Novel**

A ninth-grader’s suspension for singing *The Star-Spangled Banner* during homeroom becomes a national news story. Craven, M. Y

**I Heard the Owl Call My Name**

A young minister who has two years to live learns about the meaning of life when he is sent to an Indian parish in British Columbia. Dahl, R. JB Dahl

**Boy: Tales of Childhood**

The author relates humorous anecdotes from his childhood which include summer vacations in Norway and an English boarding school. Engdahl, S. J/Y

**Enchantress from the Stars**

When young Eliana unexpectedly joins the team leaving the spaceship to study the planet Andracia, she becomes an integral part of an adventure involving three very different civilizations.

**The House of the Scorpion**

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States.