


Contemporary Realistic Fiction

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Revised August 2011



Fiction: Grades 3-5

JF BLUME

FRECKLE JUICE

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for 50 cents.

JF BLUME

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SHEILA THE GREAT

The theme of this book is admitting one's weakness as shown by 10-year-old Sheila Tubman.

JF BRISSON

LITTLE SISTER, BIG SISTER

In four charming, easy-to-read stories, Edna and Hester capture the essence of sisterhood as they boss each other around, stick up for each other at the pool, share candy, and make Thunder Cookies together. Young readers will find much to relate to in these winning characters, who know just what it means to be a sister--big or little.

JF CAMERON

THE STORIES JULIAN TELLS

More episodes in the life of Julian including a bet with his best friend Gloria, a secret project, and what happens when his brother Huey decides to be Superboy.

JF CLEMENTS

THE LANDRY NEWS

A fifth grader starts a newspaper with an editorial that prompts her burnt-out classroom teacher to actually begin teaching again, but he is later threatened with disciplinary action as a result.

JF CLYMER

LUKE WAS THERE

Abandoned by their father, Julius and Danny stay in the Children's House while their mother is in the hospital. When Julius is frightened, Luke, a counselor, reassures him.

JF COX

THIRD GRADE PET

Fearing the safety of the third grade's class pet, Cheese the rat, Rosemary takes him home in her backpack and creates chaos in the household.

YF INGOLD

PICTURES 1918

Asia McKinna comes of age in a rural Texas town during World War I. She struggles to understand the frailty of her grandmother, the strain of the war, her intensifying feelings for her friend Nick Grissom, and the uneasiness caused by the mysterious fires plaguing her town.

YF L'ENGLE

A RING OF ENDLESS LIGHT

Vicky and her father are spending what may be their last summer with grandfather at his island home.

YF LIPSYTE

SUMMER RULES

A teenage boy has to deal with an unwanted summer job, his first love, and some crucial decisions.

YF PAULSEN

HATCHET

Surviving fifty-four days in the Canadian wilderness after a plane crash, 13-year-old Brian Robeson discovers and develops totally new talents and skills. Armed with only a hatchet, he invents his own technology to make fire, create shelter, and find food. In an intense coming-of-age tale in a unique setting, Brian learns to "look" in a new way and, as a result, survives and grows.

YF PECK

FATHER FIGURE

After being a father figure for years, Jam and his younger brother are reunited with their divorced father, and Jim is forced to find a new role for himself.

YF REEDER

CAPTAIN KATE

With her father dead and her mother remarried and expecting a new baby, Kate knows the family will be in financial trouble if they don't make their regular canal boat journeys. As much as she resents her stepbrother, Seth, Kate needs his help and together they navigate their way through the canal's locks and frightening passages.

NEWBERY YF SPINELLI

Gr. 8-12

MANIAC MAGEE

After his parents die, Jeffrey Lionel Magee's life becomes legendary, as he accomplishes athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries.

Fiction: Grades 5-8

YF BYARS

THE PINBALLS

Three children from deprived backgrounds, living in a foster home together, develop friendships and determinations.

YF CORMIER

THE CHOCOLATE WAR

Jerry refused to join in a candy sale, organized by a high school teacher to repay funds he misappropriated for his own use.

YF GRIFFIN

MY ALMOST EPIC SUMMER

Stuck babysitting during the summer while her friends take glamorous vacations, 14-year-old Irene learns some lessons about life after meeting a beautiful, yet troubled girl.

YF HINTON

THE OUTSIDERS

Ponyboy, Sodapop, and Darry struggle to keep the family together after their parents' sudden death.

YF HINTON

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

Byron and Mark feel like brothers, but when Bryon learns Mark is peddling drugs to adolescents, he turns Mark over to the authorities.

YF HEWETT

DANCER

Stephanie lives for ballet. And no one seems to know why she pushes herself so hard. But when the lead in Sleeping Beauty is stolen from her by the new girl, and a new boy takes the role of the Prince, she must find the courage to pursue the dream that many have told her is impossible: a future for herself as a professional dancer.

JF GEORGE

MY SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN

Seventeen-year-old Sam runs away from his New York City family to the Catskill Mountain where he learns independence and lives off the land for eight months.

JF HALL

DANGER DOG

Having failed once in the past to show responsibility as a pet owner, 13-year-old David is determined to save a dangerous Doberman Pinscher by deprogramming him from his attack training.

JF HAVEN

TWO HOT DOGS WITH EVERYTHING

Although everyone credits him with his superstitions for the slugger's first winning streak in 108 baseball seasons, 11-year-old Danny Gurkin believes that his discovery of a secret from the team's past may be the real reason behind the ball club's success.

JF MCDONALD

COMFORT CREEK

Quinnella Ellerbee and her family are going through some difficult times with her mother leaving and her father losing his job. He moves them into a swamp where there is no electricity or running water. Quinn had to leave her school and a chance to edit the 6th-grade newspaper. For the first time, she and her dad aren't seeing eye to eye. But, Quinn and her family are tough and they can get through difficult times. Ed Earl, Quinn's new friend, will help the family, too.

JF MARSDEN

THE QUAIL CLUB

Now in the fifth grade, Oy wants to do a Thai dance at the school talent show until Liliandra threatens to kick her out of their club if they do not perform an American-style skit together.

JF PATERSON

THE GREAT GILLY HOPKINS

Eleven-year-old Gilly is claimed by Nonnie, her maternal grandmother, after she adjusted to living with foster mother Maime Trotter.

JF PEARCE

DOG HOUSE BLUES

Erica longs for a new best friend, but a girl at school calls her Dog Girl, interfering with her chances of a new friendship.

JF SACHS

DORRIE'S BOOK

An only child, Dorrie must adjust to the birth of sibling triplets.

JF SMITH

A TASTE OF BLACKBERRIES

When John's best friend Jamie dies from a allergic reaction to bee stings, he learns how to cope with death.

JF WALLACE

SOUTHPAW

After moving to New Jersey following his parents divorce, Jimmy Fleming tries out for the 7th grade baseball team while also trying to cope with his new life and dealing with this overly competitive father.

Fantasy

FANTASY JF KONIGSBURG

Gr. 4-6

JENNIFER, HECATE, MACBETH, WILLIAM MCKINLEY, AND ME ELIZABETH

Elizabeth is the loneliest child in the United States until she meets Jennifer, a witch, on Halloween.

Mysteries

MYSTERY JF CIRRONE

Gr. 2-5

THE MISSING SILVER DOLLAR

Fourth-grader and local reporter Lindy investigates the whereabouts of a silver dollar that has supposedly gone missing from her young neighbor's bank.

MYSTERY JF FITZHUGH

Gr. 2-5

HARRIET THE SPY

Eleven-year-old Harriet keeps notes on her classmates and neighbors in a secret notebook, but when some of the students read the notebook, they seek revenge.

MYSTERY JF WAGENER

Gr. 2-5

THE GHOST IN THE CLASSROOM

A young girl wants a cat more than anything, and a tiny, but lively ghost that appears in her lunchbox at school helps her get one.

Newberry Winners

NEWBERY JF BYARS

Gr. 3-8

THE SUMMER OF THE SWANS

Fourteen-year-old Sara feels the burden of caring for her mentally retarded ten-year-old brother the night he gets lost looking for swans.

NEWBERY JF CLEARY

Gr. 3-8

DEAR MR. HENSHAW

In his letters to his favorite author, 10-year-old Leigh reveals his problem in coping with his parents divorce, being the new boy in school, and generally finding his own place in the world.

NEWBERY YF HAMILTON

Gr. 7-12

M.C. HIGGINS, THE GREAT

As a slag heap, the result of strip mining, creeps closer to the house in the Ohio hills, 15-year-old M.C. is torn between trying to get his family away and fighting for the home they love.

NEWBERY JF KONIGSBURG

Gr. 4-6

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

Eluding guards, Claudia and Jamie live in New York Metropolitan Museum for a week and become enchanted with an angel.

NEWBERY YF NEVILLE

Gr. 4-6

IT'S LIKE THIS, CAT

The sometimes antagonistic relationship between 14-year-old Dave Mitchell and his Father gradually improves.

NEWBERY JF PATERSON

Gr. 3-8

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

Friendship and death are the themes of this book about 10-year-old Jessie and his friend Leslie who dies in an accident.

NEWBERY JF SORENSEN

Gr. 4-6

MIRACLES ON MAPLE HILL

Mary's father, who has returned from a prisoner-of-war camp, adjusts so well to a vacation at her grandmother's house that the family decides to remain there permanently.