

Burbank Public Library Children's Services

Realistic Fiction

Grades 4-6



A selection of stories about people and places that could be found in real life

*Titles included in this brochure are available
in the Children's Room of the Burbank Public Library*

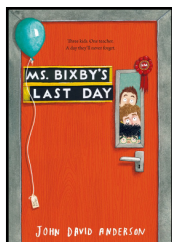
Key:

AR = Accelerated Reader Level

C = Central

BV = Buena Vista Branch

NW = Northwest Branch



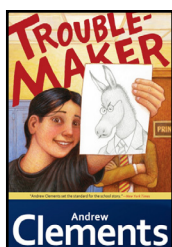
Anderson, John David
Ms. Bixby's Last Day

Loving their gifted teacher, who makes them feel like the indignity of school is worthwhile, three boys are dismayed when the teacher falls ill and leaves for the rest of the school year, a situation that compels them to share their stories.
(C, BV) AR 5.2



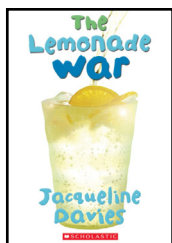
Cheng, Jack
See You in the Cosmos

Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip, and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.
(ALL) AR 5.4



Clements, Andrew
Trouble-maker

When his older brother gets in serious trouble, sixth-grader Clay decides to change his own mischief-making ways, but he cannot seem to shake his reputation as a troublemaker.
(ALL) AR 4.7



Davies, Jacqueline
The Lemonade War

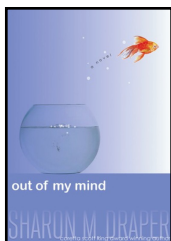
Evan Treski is people-smart. He is good at talking with people. His younger sister, Jessie, on the other hand, is math-smart, but not especially good at understanding people. She knows that feelings are her weakest subject. So when their lemonade war begins, there really is no telling who will win.
(ALL) AR 4.1



Dowell, Frances O’Roark
The Second Life of Abigail Walker

Bullied by two mean girls in her sixth-grade class, a lonely, plump girl gains self-confidence and makes new friends after a mysterious fox gently bites her.

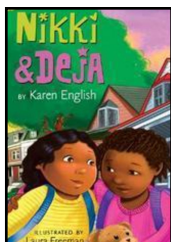
(ALL) AR 4.7



Draper, Sharon M.
Out of My Mind

Considered by many to be mentally disabled, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time.

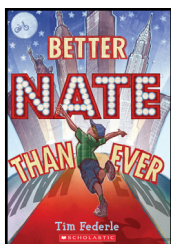
(ALL) AR 4.3



English, Karen
Nikki & Deja

When an arrogant new girl comes to school, third-graders and best friends Nikki and Deja decide to form a club that would exclude her but find the results not what they expected.

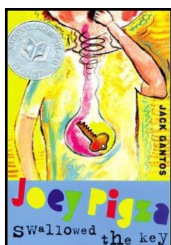
(C) AR 3.9



Federle, Tim
Better Nate Than Ever

An eighth-grader who dreams of performing in a Broadway musical concocts a plan to run away to New York and audition for the role of Elliot in the musical version of E.T.

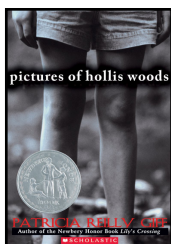
(ALL) AR 5.9



Gantos, Jack
Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

(ALL) AR 4.9



Giff, Patricia Reilly
Pictures of Hollis Woods

A troublesome twelve-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who needs her, remembers the only other time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her.

(C, BV) AR 4.4



Gino, Alex
George

Knowing herself to be a girl despite her outwardly male appearance, George is denied a female role in the class play before teaming up with a friend to reveal her true self.

(ALL) AR 5.0



Graff, Lisa
Lost in the Sun

As Trent Zimmerman struggles to move past a traumatic event that took place several months earlier, he befriends class outcast Fallon Little, who helps him understand that he can move on.

(ALL) AR 4.5



Hunt, Lynda Mullaly
Fish in a Tree

Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out she is dyslexic and doesn't know how to read. Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker, and with his help, Ally learns she has nothing to be ashamed of.

(ALL) AR 3.7



Kelly, Erin Entrada
Hello, Universe (Newbery Award)

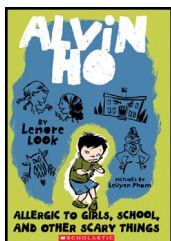
The lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him.

(ALL) AR 4.7



Khan, Hena
Amina's Voice

Amina, a Pakistani American Muslim girl, struggles to stay true to her family's culture while dealing with the vandalism of the local Islamic Center and mosque and her best friend Soojin's new friendship with their former nemesis.
(C, BV) AR 5.0



Look, Lenore
Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

A young boy in Corcord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.
(ALL) AR 3.8



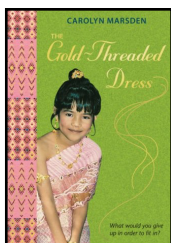
Lord, Cynthia
Touch Blue

When the state of Maine threatens to shut down their island's one-room schoolhouse because of dwindling enrollment, eleven-year-old Tess, a strong believer in luck, and her family take in a trumpet-playing foster child, to increase the school's population.
(C, NW) AR 4.4



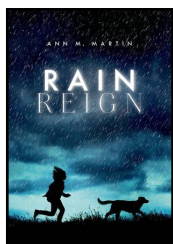
MacLachlan, Patricia
Kindred Souls

Ten year-old Jake shares a special bond with his grandfather, Billy, but when Billy asks Jake to build him a sod house, Jake is not sure he wants to do it.
(ALL) AR 3.0



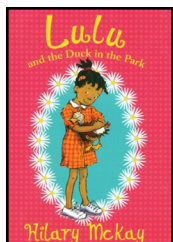
Marsden, Carolyn
The Gold-Threaded Dress

When Oy and her Thai-American family move to a new neighborhood, her third-grade classmates tease and exclude her because she is different.
(C, BV) AR 4.6



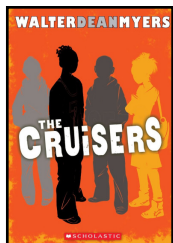
Martin, Ann M.
Rain Reign

Struggling with OCD and Asperger's syndrome, Rose shares an inseparable bond with her beloved dog, but when the dog goes missing during a storm, she is forced to confront the limits of her comfort levels.
(ALL) AR 4.3



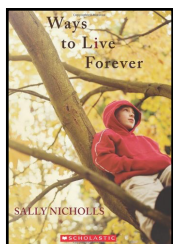
McKay, Hilary
Lulu and the Duck in the Park

Lulu, who loves animals, brings an abandoned duck egg to school, even though her teacher has banned Lulu from bringing animals to school ever again.
(ALL) AR 4.2



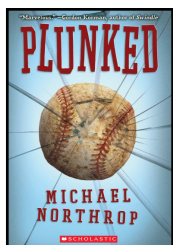
Myers, Walter Dean
The Cruisers

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, *The Cruiser*, to try to make peace.
(C) AR 5.3



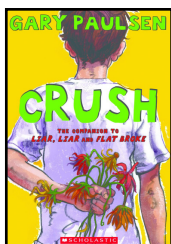
Nicholls, Sally
Ways to Live Forever

Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.
(C, BV) AR 3.9



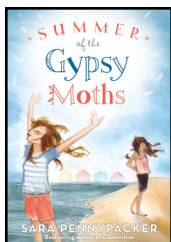
Northrop, Michael
Plunked

Sixth-grader Jack Mogens loses his nerve after getting hit by a pitch, and has to dig deep within himself to avoid giving up the sport he loves.
(C, NW) AR 4.3



Paulsen, Gary
*Crush: the Theory, Practice,
and Destructive Properties of Love*

Afraid to actually ask Tina Zabinski for a date, eighth-grader Kevin spends most of his time theorizing about love and romance and observing and analyzing male/female interaction. (ALL) AR 5.1



Pennypacker, Sara
The Summer of the Gypsy Moths

A foster child named Angel and twelve-year-old Stella, who are living with Stella's great-aunt Louise at the Linger Longer Cottage Colony on Cape Cod, secretly assume responsibility for the vacation rentals when Louise unexpectedly dies. (ALL) AR 4.4



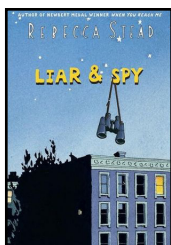
Reynolds, Jason
As Brave As You

When two brothers decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfires—literally. (C, BV) AR 4.8



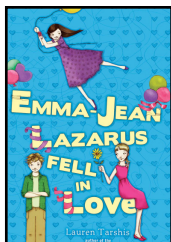
Spinelli, Jerry
Jake and Lily

Jake and Lily are twins and have always felt the same—like two halves of one person—but the year they turn eleven and Jake begins hanging out with Bump Stubbins, everything changes. (ALL) AR 3.2



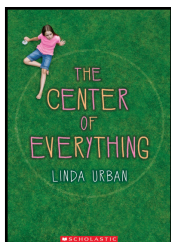
Stead, Rebecca
Liar & Spy

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and a boy who wants his help spying on another resident. (ALL) AR 3.8



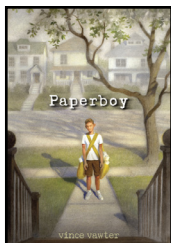
Tarshis, Lauren
Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell in Love

Seventh-grader Emma-Jean Lazarus uses her logical, scientific mind to navigate the mysteries of the upcoming Spring Fling, her friend Colleen's secret admirer, and other love-related dilemmas.
(C) AR 5.5



Urban, Linda
The Center of Everything

For Ruby, the center of everything is stargazing from the circle of her grandmother Gigi's hug. Then everything goes spinning out of control. But Ruby has one last hope. And it all depends on her twelfth birthday wish—unless she messes that up too.
(ALL) AR 4.9



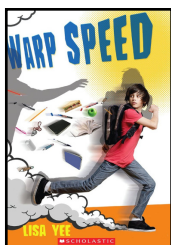
Vawter, Vince
Paperboy

An 11-year-old boy living in Memphis in 1959 throws the meanest fastball in town, but talking is a whole different game. He can barely say a word without stuttering. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he knows he'll be forced to communicate with the different customers.
(ALL) AR 5.1



Weeks, Sarah
So B. It: a Novel

After spending her life with her mentally disabled mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out who she is.
(ALL) AR 5.0



Yee, Lisa
Warp Speed

Marley Sandelski has always felt invisible at school when he is not facing bullies, but a series of unexpected events gives him a taste of popularity and insights into some classmates, well-liked or greatly-feared.
(C) AR 4.0

