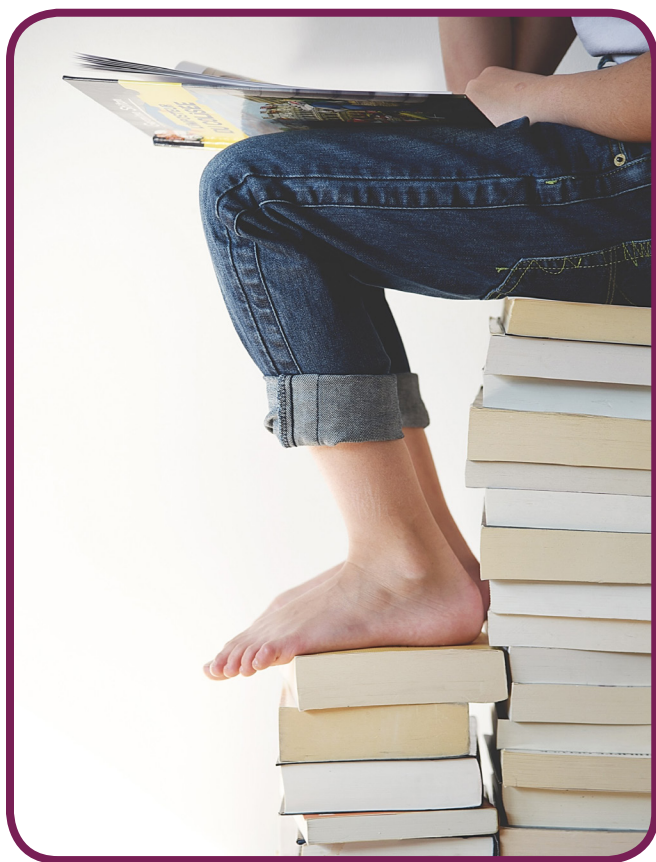


Burbank Public Library Children's and Teen Services

# Great Books for Tweens



**An Age-Appropriate Selection of  
Challenging Books for Preteen Readers**

Titles included in this brochure are available  
at all **3** branches of the Burbank Public Library.

**AR = Accelerated Reader Level**

**Adams, Richard**  
*Watership Down*

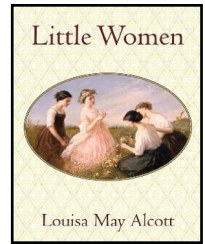
A bestseller for over 40 years, *Watership Down* is a timeless classic and one of the most beloved novels of all time. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage, and survival follows a band of very special rabbits on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey forth through the harrowing trials posed by adversaries to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

**AR 6.2**

**Alcott, Louisa May**  
*Little Women*

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy manage to lead interesting lives despite their father's absence during the Civil War and the family's lack of money. Whether they're putting on a play or forming a secret society, their joy is infectious. Written from Louisa May Alcott's own experiences, this remarkable novel has been treasured for generations.

**AR 7.4**



**Anderson, John David**  
*Ms. Bixby's Last Day*

This is a story of three sixth-graders, Topher, Brand, and Steve and their favorite teacher Ms. Bixby. Ms. Bixby is diagnosed with cancer and has to cut the school year short. With their favorite teacher in the hospital battling cancer and unable to make it back to school for a goodbye party, the trio come up with a plan to give Ms. Bixby the send-off she deserves and show her what she has meant to them.

**AR 5.2**

**Austen, Jane**  
*Emma*

Emma is lovable precisely because she is so imperfect. The story revolves around a comedy of errors: Emma befriends Harriet Smith, a young woman of unknown parentage, and attempts to remake her in her own image. At the same time, she reads too much into a flirtation with Frank Churchill, the newly arrived son of family friends. As Emma's fantastically misguided schemes threaten to surge out of control, the voice of reason is provided by Mr. Knightly, her longtime friend and neighbor.

**AR 9.3**

## Bradley, C. Alan

### *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*

Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce is a chemistry genius, a family pest, and a budding detective when she attempts to solve the murder of a mysterious stranger in the family mansion's cucumber plot. First book in a series.

AR 6.6

## Card, Orson Scott

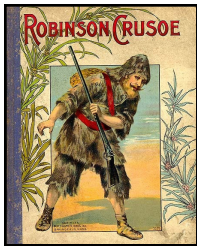
### *Ender's Game*

"Ender" Wiggin wasn't born by chance; he is the product of a deliberate decision by the government to allow his parents to have a third child, the "end" child. And the government is right, for Ender is brilliant and empathic, and because he is both, he is also a superb gamer, just the kind of gifted individual the world needs to battle a hostile alien race. First book in a series.

AR 5.5

## Defoe, Daniel

### *Robinson Crusoe*



One of the first novels ever written (1719), this is the classic adventure story of a man marooned on an island for nearly 30 years. The story begins with the universal quest: the young man in Britain breaks away from his loving father and sails away into the unknown. After a series of harrowing escapes, he's shipwrecked on a desert island. His lively first-person account shows how his intelligence and education help him survive for many years. Then one day he finds a human footprint ...

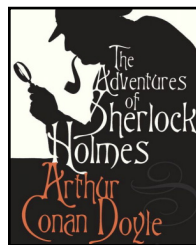
AR 12.3

## Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan

### *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*

There is one literary detective who stands above all others, whose powers of deduction are known the world over. Sherlock Holmes, the famous gumshoe of 221B Baker Street will amaze you with his powers of intellect and ingenuity. Stories include "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Red-Headed League," and "The Adventure of the Speckled Band."

AR 7.0



## Duane, Diane

### *So You Want to Be a Wizard*

Constantly bullied and beaten, 13-year-old Nita never fights back, but when she discovers an unusual book at her local library titled *So You Want to Be a Wizard*, she thinks she may have found an answer to her tormentors. She does find a solution to her problem, but it comes at a much higher cost than she bargained for.

First book in a series.

AR 5.9

**Horowitz, Anthony**  
*Stormbreaker*

When Alex Rider realizes his guardian, Uncle Ian, was not the victim of a car crash but was murdered, his suspicions lead him into a dangerous world of espionage. First book in a series.

**AR 5.1**

**Jones, Diana Wynne**  
*The Game*

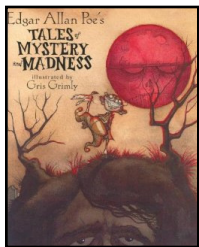
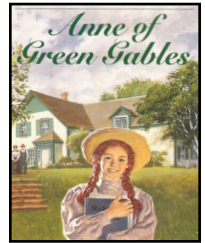
Hayley has no idea what's in store for her when her guardian grandparents send her off to live with her extended family in Ireland, but "the game" her cousins are begging to play will reveal far more about her life than she could ever imagine.

**AR 5.3**

**Montgomery, L.M.**  
*Anne of Green Gables*

When Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert of Prince Edward Island send for a boy orphan to help them out at the farm, they are in no way prepared for the error that will change their lives. The mistake takes the shape of Anne Shirley, a redheaded 11-year-old girl who can talk anyone under the table. The portrayal of this feminine yet independent spirit has given generations of girls a strong female role model, while offering a taste of another, milder time in history. First book in a series.

**AR 7.3**



**Poe, Edgar Allan**  
*Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Mystery and Madness*

A sweet little cat drives a man to insanity and murder. The grim death known as the plague roams a masquerade ball dressed in red. A dwarf seeks his final revenge on his captors. The gently abridged retellings are in Poe's original language, and Gris Grimly's wonderfully ghastly art splendidly adorns every page.

**AR 8.8**

**Schmidt, Gary D.**  
*The Wednesday Wars*

It's 1967, and new seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood thinks he is going to be in big trouble this year. He is doomed to spend every Wednesday afternoon alone with Mrs. Baker while the rest of his class goes to religious instruction, and she has to find a project for him that will keep him out of trouble, i.e., out of her way. Mrs. Baker's answer: Shakespeare! And Holling, to his surprise, begins to see Shakespearean comedy and drama everywhere he looks: in the gym, in the cafeteria, at home, and on the six o'clock news.

**AR 5.9**

## Shusterman, Neal

### *Everlost*

When Nick and Allie are killed in a car collision, they wake up in an afterlife called Everlost by its youthful inhabitants. To “survive” to the next part of their journey, they must first learn the perilous rules of this strange land and frequently dangerous inhabitants, but they must also puzzle out how to achieve their final destination. First book in a series.

**AR 5.6**



## Sloan, Holly Goldberg

### *Counting by 7s*

Willow Chance is a genius twelve-year-old, who is obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents. Willow’s world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash and upends the stability of her home.

**AR 5.6**

## Sonnenblick, Jordan

### *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*

Steven Alpers is your average eighth grade boy, has a crush on the beautiful cheerleader Renee Albert, and plays drums in the jazz band. He has a mom, a dad, and a five-year-old brother who he pretends to despise. However, when his little brother is diagnosed with leukemia, Steven’s world is turned upside down and realizes that he’s going to have to make some major changes in his life.

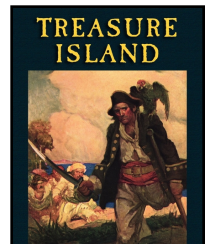
**AR 5.9**

## Stevenson, Robert Louis

### *Treasure Island*

Pirates, buried treasure, and action aplenty—that’s what’s served up in this fine story, mates. After Jim Hawkins finds the map to a mysterious treasure, he sets sail in search of the fortune. Little does he realize he’s boarded a pirate ship, and that surprises and danger await him ... including a meeting with the unforgettable Long John Silver.

**AR 8.3**



# The MYSTERIOUS BENEDICT SOCIETY

## Stewart, Trenton Lee

### *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Dozens of children respond to a mysterious ad in the newspaper, and are put into a series of mind-bending tests. Only four children, Reynie, Sticky, Kate, and Constance, are selected for a secret mission. Faced with struggles and threats at every turn, the four teammates journey to the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, a suspicious academy founded by the Sender himself. The Mysterious Benedict Society must halt the Sender's wicked plans before it's too late.

First book in a series.

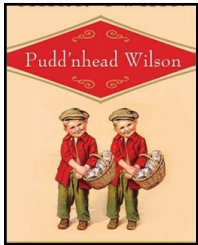
**AR 5.6**

## Stroud, Jonathan

### *The Amulet of Samarkand*

Magician's apprentice Nathaniel is humiliated by a hotshot wizard, and decides to make him (and everyone else) sit up and take notice by the exhibition of powers far beyond his supposed level of skill. He summons the powerful djinni, Bartimaeus, and bids him to steal the elusive Amulet of Samarkand, setting into motion a dangerous (but exciting) series of events. First book in a series.

**AR 5.9**



## Twain, Mark

### *Pudd'nhead Wilson*

Switched at birth by a female slave who fears for her infant son's life, a light-skinned child changes places with the master's white son. This simple premise underlies Twain's darkly comic masterpiece of reversed identities, an eccentric detective, a horrible crime, and a tense courtroom scene.

**AR 8.3**

## Vande Velde, Vivian

### *Now You See It...*

Wendy is blind as a bat without her glasses, so when she stumbles across a pair of mirrored sunglasses on her lawn and finds that she can see clearly with them, she is overjoyed. At last, she has a pair of sunglasses that work! But why does everything look so—different, so much more lush, and colorful, and—when did that new cute guy at school grow pointed ears?

**AR 6.1**

**Voigt, Cynthia**

*Jackaroo*

In this historical romance, the courageous, intelligent daughter of an innkeeper discovers the disguise used by the local folk hero, Jackaroo, and decides to use it and Jackaroo's legend to administer justice in her own way. First book in a series.

**AR 5.6**

**Zusak, Markus**

*The Book Thief*

This is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich in Nazi Germany. Liesel steals books and then, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her books with a peculiar set of friends, including the mayor's wife, and a Jewish refugee living in the basement.

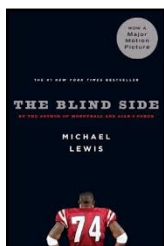
The narrator of this story is Death, who is overwhelmed by his wartime job.

**AR 5.1**

## NONFICTION

**Lewis, Michael**

*The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game*



When we first meet Michael Oher, he is a homeless child who doesn't know how to read or write, and who has never touched a football. After he is adopted by the Tuohy family, he makes the most of his new life and works hard to join the ranks of the National Football League. It turns out, Michael is the perfect athlete for an important position on the football field, guarding the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side.

**AR 7.2**

**Call Number: 796.332 LEWIS**

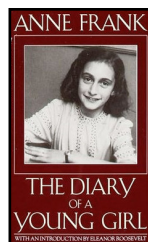
**Frank, Anne**

*Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*

Dutch Jewish teenager Anne Frank's classic diary was written in an Amsterdam warehouse, where for two years she hid from the Nazis with her family and friends. In the end, Anne's teen angst pales beside her profound insights, her self-discovery and her unbroken faith in good triumphing over evil.

**AR 6.5**

**Call Number: J 92 F828 FRANK**



## **Burbank Central Library**

110 N. Glenoaks Blvd. 91502  
818-238-5610

## **Buena Vista Branch Library**

300 N. Buena Vista St. 91505  
818-238-5620

## **Northwest Branch Library**

3323 W. Victory Blvd. 91505  
818-238-5640



**[burbanklibrary.com](http://burbanklibrary.com)** 