ADVENTURE

**Hero** series Book 1: **Hero** by Jennifer Li Shotz  
(also by this author: **Max: Best Friend, Hero, Marine**)  
Ben and his retired search and rescue dog brave dangers to locate an injured runaway puppy. (intermediate)

**The One and Only Ivan** by Katherine Applegate  
When Ivan, a gorilla, meets Ruby, a baby elephant, he decides to find her a better life. 2013 Newbery Medal. (beginning)

**Warcross** by Marie Lu  
Emika Chen is a bounty hunter and a hacker in futuristic NYC. One night she hacks into an “unhackable” playoff game of Warcross (like Fortnite) and draws way more attention to herself than intended. (advanced)

**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins  
Katniss is pitted against teens from the other districts of her country in a televised fight to the death where she must decide whether to kill or be killed. First in a trilogy. (advanced)

**Can You Survive the Jungle?** by Matt Doeden  
Your choices determine whether you live or die. (beginning)

**Spy School** by Stuart Gibbs  
Ben leaves his public middle school to attend the CIA's secret Espionage Academy. Sequel: Spy Camp. (intermediate)

**Escaping the Giant Wave** by Peg Kehret  
While vacationing in Oregon, an earthquake hits and Kyle must make life and death decisions for himself and his little sister before the incoming tsunami makes landfall. (intermediate)

**Overdrive** by Eric Walters  
When a street race goes horribly wrong, Jake must make some hard choices. (beginning)

BIOGRAPHY

**The Red Bandanna** (Young Reader’s Adaptation) by Tom Rinaldi  
Welles Crowther didn’t see himself as a hero. But on September 11, 2001 when his ordinary work day at the World Trade Center in New York turned lethal, he showed those around him how a true hero acts. (intermediate)

**Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet** by Andrea Cheng  
The story of a man, who lived enslaved in South Carolina in the early 1800’s, who became a skilled potter and defied the law to record his life in clay. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

**El Deafo** by Cece Bel  
In this graphic novel, Cece Bel retells her story of growing up with hearing loss, trying to make friends, and deciding that her awkward giant hearing aid gave her super powers. (graphic novel) (intermediate)

**Stolen Into Slavery: The True Story of Solomon Northup**  
by Judy & Dennis Fradin  
A free black man, Northup was kidnapped and forced into enslavement for 12 years in Louisiana until his friends rescued him. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

**X: A Biography of Malcolm X** by Jessica Gunderson  
This graphic novel tells the story of Malcolm X's journey from his role as spokesperson for the Nation of Islam to his role as crusader for human rights. (nonfiction) (beginning)

**Black Elk’s Vision: A Lakota Story** by S.D. Nelson  
The story of the Lakota medicine man who fought at Little Bighorn and Wounded Knee. Includes many original photos. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

**Who Was Abraham Lincoln?** by Janet B. Pascal  
A biography of America’s sixteenth president. (nonfiction) (beginning)

**Who Was Steve Jobs?** by Pam Pollack & Meg Belviso  
The biography of the college dropout genius who attended business meetings barefoot and created a technology empire. (nonfiction) (beginning)

CLASSICS
My Side of the Mountain by Jean Craighead George
A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends alone in the Catskill Mountains. (beginning)

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl
Charlie and five others win a guided tour of a legendary candy factory that no outsider has seen in 15 years. (intermediate)

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Brian's plane crashes in the Canadian wilderness and he must survive on his own with nothing but a hatchet. (intermediate)

Edgar Allan Poe's Tales of Terror (Random House Stepping Stones edition) by Les Martin

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
Mysterious multimillionaire Samuel Westing reaches from the grave to make sixteen unlikely people compete in a game of his own devising. (Intermediate)

Holes by Louis Sachar
sequel: Small Steps
Stanley, sent to a boys' detention center, must dig holes all day long—what's the warden looking for? (intermediate)

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
A story of friendship; a gang of wealthy kids (socs) and a gang of "greasers" get into a fight with dire consequences. (advanced)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series by Nathan Hale
Book 1: One Dead Spy (also by this author: One Trick Pony)
The author begins his series retelling the roughest, toughest, craziest stories from history with this tale of his namesake, Nathan Hale, America's first spy. (graphic novel) (beginning)

Ghost Hawk by Susan Cooper
At the end of a winter-long journey into manhood, Little Hawk returns to find his village has been the victim of a white man's plague. (advanced)

Chains
By Laurie Halse Anderson
Isabel must fight for freedom—and spy on the enemy—for herself and her sister after she is re-sold into slavery to a Loyalist household during the Revolutionary War. (advanced)

In The Footsteps of Crazy Horse
by Joseph Marshall & James M. Yellowhawk
The story of the life of Crazy Horse, Lakota leader and warrior who stood with Sitting Bull against the US government, as told to Jimmy Maclean, a young boy struggling to understand his own Scottish/Lakota ancestry. (intermediate)

Half a Man by Michael Morpurgo
Michael has always been fascinated and afraid of his war-scarred grandfather, until he eventually spends his summers with him and learns the story behind the scars and the man beneath them. (intermediate)

I Survived the Japanese Tsunami, 2011 by Lauren Tarshis
A huge earthquake and wave hit Japan while Ben is visiting, leaving him stranded alone. (beginning)

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

A History of Just About Everything: 180 Events, People and Inventions That Changed the World by Elizabeth MacLeod, Frieda Wishinsky & Qin Leng
Chronicles some of history's most important events, from the building of the pyramids and the invention of paper to the creation of the internet. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

I Will Always Write Back by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka, with Liz Welch
This true story is based on a friendship that began in 1997 when a 12-year old girl is given a pen pal in Zimbabwe. Neither 14-year-old Martin nor Caitlin could have predicted how much their letters would change them. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

Lost series by Tod Olson
Lost in the Amazon
On Christmas Eve, 1970, when flying over the Andes mountains, lightning strikes her plane and 17-year-old Juliane finds herself alone in the largest rainforest on Earth. (intermediate)

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges
What would it be like to have to enter school every day through a crowd of people shouting at you, to be the only student in your first grade class? Ruby Bridges tells what it was like for her to be the first to integrate a school in New Orleans in 1960. (nonfiction) (intermediate)
World War II Spies: An Interactive History Adventure
by Michael Burgan
Describes the role spies played during World War II through reader's choices in the narrative. (nonfiction)(beginning)

How to Be a World Explorer by Joel Levy
Illustrated guide to exploring the world’s biomes, including what to wear and pack for different conditions, how to escape hazards like quicksand, what animals to expect and stories of past discoveries. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

Witches! The Absolutely True Tale of Disaster in Salem by Rosalyn Schanzer
Examines the famous Massachusetts witch hunt that took more than a dozen lives and ruined hundreds more. (nonfiction) (advanced)

USA--Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs and Culture by Gina Teague & Alan Beechey
This book gives you some valuable and interesting insights into the culture and customs of the USA.

HUMOR

Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka by Jon Scieszka
Funny stories of what can go wrong when one of your five brothers comes up with a “good idea.” (intermediate)

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
Junior leaves his school on the Spokane reservation to attend the all-white school in town and faces challenges. (advanced)

Fortunately, the Milk by Neil Gaiman
While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild and funny adventure through time and space. (beginning)

Chomp by Carl Hiassen
The difficult star of a reality TV show disappears while filming in the Florida Everglades. (advanced)

Liar, Liar by Gary Paulsen
Kevin is very good at lying and doing so makes life easier, but when he finds himself in big trouble with his friends, family, and teachers, he must find a way to end his lies forever. First in a series. (intermediate)

I, Funny by James Patterson & Chris Grabenstein
Resolving to become the world’s greatest stand-up comedian despite less-than-funny challenges in his life, wheelchair-bound middle school student Jamie enters a local comedy contest. (beginning)

Middle School: Get Me Out of Here by James Patterson
Rafe thinks he's in the clear from boring classes when he gets into art school, but he finds out the hard way that it’s more competitive than he ever imagined! (intermediate)

MYSTERY

39 Clues series, various authors
Book 1: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan
Amy and Dan try to find the lost source of their family's power by decoding 39 clues throughout the world. (beginning)

The Forbidden Stone (Copernicus Legacy, book 1) by Tony Abbott
Four friends receive a coded e-mail about a dangerous secret at the heart of a family member's death. (intermediate)

Scat by Carl Hiassen
An unpopular teacher goes missing after a school field trip to Black Vine Swamp. (intermediate)

Greenglass House by Kate Milford
Greenglass House is a smuggler's inn run by Milo's parents. One night, before their winter holiday, unexpected guests begin to arrive and it becomes clear that the house is hiding something, and Milo is going to find out what. (intermediate)

Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made by Stephan Pastis
Timmy launches a detective business with a polar bear partner in this funny mystery. First in a series. (beginning)

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd
A brother and sister overcome their differences to try to find their cousin, who disappeared in mid air while riding the London Eye ferris wheel. (intermediate).

REALISTIC FICTION

As Brave As You by Jason Reynolds
When two city bred boys go to live in the country with their grandparents one summer, they learn a lot about chores (including picking up dog
poop), family, and the real meaning of bravery. (beginning)

Long Way Down  by Jason Reynolds
“Jason Reynolds’s fiercely stunning novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he’s going to murder the guy who killed his brother.” -from Amazon (advanced)

The Perks of Being a Wallflower  by Stephen Chbosky
Charlie is a “wallflower”-- he observes his high school world from a distance-- until he meets some new friends that change the way he (and they) see things. (8th or 9th grade rated , YA) (advanced)

Fish in a Tree  By Lynda Mullaly Hunt
Ally has always tried to disguise her dyslexia but acting out, until a teacher helps her to see her true abilities. (beginning)

Absolutely Almost  By Lisa Graff
He’s not the smartest kid in school or the best at art or sports, but Albie is very determined to figure out what he excels at. (intermediate-advanced)

The Cruisers  by Walter Dean Myers
Students caught in the middle of a mock Civil War learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace. First in a series. (intermediate)

Swindle  by Gordon Korman
After a collector cons him out of a valuable baseball card, Griffin puts together a band of misfits to steal the card back. First in a series. (intermediate)

Chained  by Lynne Kelly
Hastin leaves his village in India to work as an elephant keeper, but many challenges await him, including trying to keep Nandita, a sweet elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner. (beginning)

Because of Mr. Terupt  by Rob Buyea
Seven 5th-graders at Snow Hill School relate how their lives are changed for the better by their rookie teacher. Sequel: Mr. Terupt Falls Again. (beginning).

My Life As a Book  by Janet Tashjian
"Reluctant reader" Derek spends summer vacation learning a surprising amount, even though he doesn’t complete his summer reading list. First in a series. (beginning)

SCIENCE

This Book Stinks! Gross Garbage, Rotten Rubbish and the Science of Trash  by Sarah Wassner Flynn
Photos, infographics and fabulous facts about what we throw away, ingenious ways to reduce, reuse and recycle, and what kids can do to take action and rethink the things we put in landfills. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives  by Elizabeth Rusch
Describes the work of volcanologists and their life-risking efforts to investigate dangerous volcanoes that pose threats to more than one billion people worldwide. (nonfiction) (advanced)

Can You Survive Storm Chasing? An Interactive Survival Adventure  by Elizabeth Raum
Presents life-or-death dilemmas and choices for the reader to choose from, including facing a tornado, hurricane, or flash flood. (nonfiction) (beginning)

Human Body Theater  by Maris Wicks
A unique explanation of human biology, told in several "acts." (intermediate).

Nature Attacks! (I Survived True Stories #2)  by Lauren Tarshis
Four true stories of young people facing sharks, fires, killer jellyfish and a volcano. (intermediate)

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

The Hypnotists  by Gordon Korman
Jackson realizes he can control other people's' actions, with frightening results--especially when an evil man tries to use Jackson's skills for his own benefit. (intermediate)

The Wild Robot  by Peter Brown
When a shipment of advanced robots washes up on the shores of an island, Roz is the only one not destroyed in the impact. She must learn to survive on her own and make peace with the frightened animal residents.(intermediate-advanced)

Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell  by Chris Colfer
Twins Alex and Connor come face-to-face with the fairy tale characters they grew up reading about. (advanced),

**20,000 Leagues Under the Sea** by Carl Bowen & Jules Verne
Scientist Pierre Aronnax and his trusty servant set sail to hunt a sea monster. With help from the world's greatest harpooner, the men discover that the creature is really a high-tech submarine with a mysterious leader, Captain Nemo. Graphic Novel adaption (beginning)

**The Unwanteds** by Lisa McMann
Every year in Quill, 13-year-olds are sorted into categories: the strong, intelligent Wanteds go to university, and the artistic Unwanteds are sent to their deaths. Or so they're told. First in a series. (advanced)

**Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Sword of Summer (book 1)** by Rick Riordan
Magnus Chase is growing up rough on the streets of Boston when his uncle tracks him down and tells him he's the son of a Norse god. (advanced)

**SPORTS**

**Booked**
by Kwame Alexander
Nick's parents are fighting, his best friend is playing on a rival soccer team for the big tournament and the pressure from his parents to be the perfect kid is beginning to get to him… (beginning)

**Love of the Game**
by John Coy
Jackson has a rough start in middle school, with bullies on the bus and changes at home, but some good teachers, joining a club, and playing football soon turn things around. (beginning)

**Offsides**
by Erik E. Esckilsen
Tom, a Native American and a star soccer player, moves to a new high school and refuses to play for their team, the Warriors, because of their insulting mascot. (advanced)

**Ronaldo (World Soccer Legends Series)**
by Illugi Jökulsson
Biography of the soccer great. (nonfiction) (intermediate)

**Play Makers (Game Changers series)**
by Mike Lupica
Ben and his crew are challenged by newcomer Chase on the basketball court. (intermediate)

**Ghost (Track series)** by Jason Reynolds
Ghost walks onto an elite track team by chance, but will he ruin his own chance at success by making dumb choices? (intermediate)

**Ted & Me (Baseball Card Adventure series)**
by Dan Gutman
Stosh travels back in time to 1941 and meets Ted Williams, one of the greatest hitters in baseball history. (beginning)
Picnic at Hanging Rock is an Australian historical fiction novel by Joan Lindsay. Set in 1900, it is about a group of female students at an Australian girls’ boarding school who vanish at Hanging Rock while on a Valentine’s day trip. Historical fiction is a literary genre in which the plot takes place in a setting located in the past. Although the term is commonly used as a synonym for the historical novel, it can also be applied to other types of narrative, including theatre, opera, cinema and television, as well as video games and graphic novels. An essential element of historical fiction is that it is set in the past and pays attention to the manners, social conditions and other details of the period depicted. Authors also This list of must-read historical fiction books is sponsored by The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. She possessed a stunning beauty. She also possessed a stunning mind. Could the world handle both? Her beauty almost certainly saved her from the rising Nazi party and led to marriage with an Austrian arms dealer. Underestimated in everything else, she overheard the Third Reich’s plans while at her husband’s side, understanding more than anyone would guess.